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Van der Dussen and de Kock set up big win

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First evacuees leave Gaza as Rafah crossing opens briefly

Interim relief: Palestinian health ministry ambulances cross the gate to enter the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip. AFP

Associated Press
RAFAH

After more than three weeks of siege, the first Palestinians – dozens of dual passport holders and seriously injured – were allowed to leave Gaza and enter Egypt via the Rafah crossing, when it was briefly opened on Wednesday.

Even as bombings have driven tens of thousands from their homes and food, water and fuel run low, no one has been allowed to leave the embattled enclave, except for four hostages released by Hamas. Another captive was rescued by Israeli forces earlier this week. But a limited agreement appeared to have been reached on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Al-Jazeera television, one of the few media outlets still reporting from northern Gaza, aired footage of devastation in the Jabaliya refugee camp near Gaza City and of several wounded people, including children, being brought to a nearby hospital. The Hamas-run government said the strikes killed and wounded many people, but the exact toll was not yet known.

The toll from Tuesday's strikes was also unknown, though the director of a nearby hospital said hundreds were killed or wounded. Israel said those strikes killed dozens of militants, including a senior Hamas commander.

Over 8,700 Palestinians have been killed in the war, mostly women and minors, and over 22,000 have been wounded, the Palestinian Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

Israeli ground forces were pushing to the outskirts of Gaza City, days after launching a new phase of the war that Israel's leaders say will be long and difficult. As when Israeli troops first pushed into Gaza in larger numbers over the weekend, internet and phone service was cut for several hours Wednesday.

MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGE 13

Selective confidentiality in electoral bonds may not suffice: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that the electoral bonds scheme only offered "selective confidentiality", which does not prevent the ruling party from unearthing the identities of donors to Opposition parties and then hounding them through its investigative agencies.

"There are ways and means for the ruling party to get information about contributions to the Opposition. The Opposition, on the other hand, may not be able to know who your [party in power] donors are, but you will know about their donors. It is easier for the party or person in power to get the information. The Opposition is at a disadvantage to question your donations, but the ruling party is not... That is the grey area here," Justice Sanjiv Khanna, part of the Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, addressed the Centre.

Chief Justice Chandrachud asked whether the State Bank of India had a statutory obligation to maintain confidentiality.

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October gross GST collections climb to ₹1.72 lakh crore

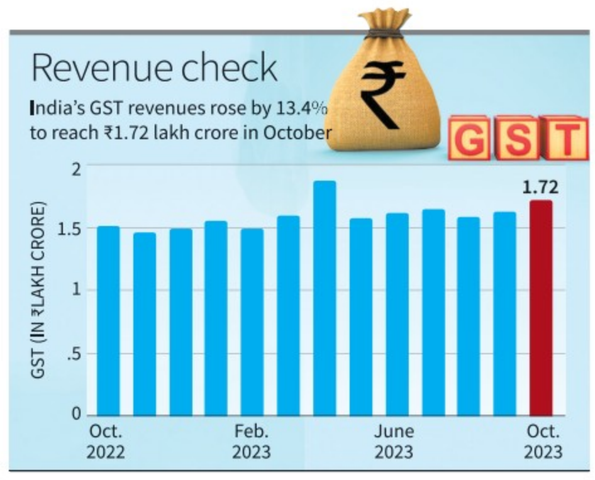
The 13.4% revenue growth marks the sharpest year-on-year uptick since December 2022 and breaks a three-month streak of deceleration

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Growth in India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues bounced back in October with tax collections rising at a 10-month high pace of 13.4% to hit the second-highest monthly tally of ₹1.72 lakh crore.

October's GST receipts were 5.7% over the kitty in September, when growth in the indirect tax had slowed to a 27-month low of 10.2%. The 13.4% revenue growth marks the sharpest year-on-year uptick since December 2022 and breaks a three-month streak of deceleration.

Domestic transactions and services imports yielded a 13% uptick in October's revenues. The Finance Ministry did not disclose the revenue growth from goods imports. Back of the envelope calculations by *The Hindu* indicate that GST levies on imports of goods rose 13.9% in October, which is faster than the growth from domestic transactions and the highest uptick in at least 9 months. Revenues from goods imports have contracted in four of the last seven months, including September.



GST Compensation Cess collections, which include ₹1,294 crore levied on goods imports, hit a record high of ₹12,456 crore in October. The previous highest collection that will persist till at least March 2026 was ₹12,025 crore received in April.

The Ministry did not share the revenue growth trends among States and union territories that are usually part of its monthly GST revenue statement, in the communique issued on Wednesday. Instead, State GST revenue trends for the first seven months of 2023-24 were shared, including the amounts States were credited from collections of the Integrated GST (IGST). Following such IGST settlements, State GST revenues were up 12% between April and October 2023, with just two States reporting negative growth – Manipur (-19%) and Himachal Pradesh (-2%).

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NEARBY

CM reiterates primacy of Kannada

BENGALURU
Reiterating that Kannada should be the administrative language, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he would write to the Centre opposing conduct of exams only in English and Hindi. » PAGE 2

Congress leaders told not to cross 'Lakshman rekha'

BENGALURU
Congress leaders Randeep Singh Surjewala and K.C. Venugopal huddled together with Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar and told leaders not to cross the 'Lakshman rekha' of the party. » PAGE 4

Land acquisition at Hampi quashed

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka has quashed the acquisition of around seven acres of land for infrastructure improvement near protected monuments of Ugra Narasimha, Badavilinga temples at Hampi. » PAGE 4

Leopard, on the prowl for 5 days, dies of gunshot wounds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The leopard, which had been wandering in the AECS Layout, Singasandra, Kudlu Gate, since October 28, succumbed to injuries it sustained from a gunshot fired by Forest Department personnel who were trying to capture it, on Wednesday.

In self-defence

In the afternoon, officials had cordoned off the area where the leopard was hiding, and it ran into a snare laid by the officials. While it was being captured, the animal attacked an official, who shot at it in self-defence, according to Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) S.S. Lingaraja.

The officials then put it into a cage and shifted it to Bannerghatta Biological Park, where it was subjected to a medical checkup. The leopard died while undergoing treatment.

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'IT ATTACKED FOUR PEOPLE'
» PAGE 3

UPSC tightens guidelines for appointment of State DGPs

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Officials say the guidelines were revised to discourage States from placing 'favourites'

Only police officers with at least six months of service left before retirement will be considered for appointment as the Director-General of Police of a State, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) said in amended guidelines issued last month.

In another change, the Empanelment Committee constituted by the UPSC will not assess Indian Police Service (IPS) officers on Central deputation for a State DGP's post if the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) says that "it will not be possible to relieve the officers."

Senior government officials say the amendments make explicit what have been considered unwritten norms, even as some States have appointed DGPs on the verge of retirement, and many States have appointed acting DGPs to avoid due process. A government source said the guidelines were revised to discourage States from appointing "favourite officers" about to retire, in a bid to extend their tenure.

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'Air pollution ups diabetes risk in Chennai, Delhi'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Two studies published in international journals have reported a worrying link between air pollution levels and the incidence of type 2 diabetes in Chennai and Delhi. The study is notable not because the findings are new – they are not unprecedented – but because they have found that the link, which has been indicated in Western countries and more recently in China as well, also holds in urban India.

Indian cities have consistently dominated the top of lists of places with the worst air for residents, with air quality frequently several times higher than the limits set by the World Health Organization.

The new studies are part of the Centre for cArdiometabolic Risk Reduction in South Asia (CARRS) Surveillance Study. Here, researchers roped in 6,722 adults in Chennai and 5,342 in Delhi and tracked their health through questionnaires and blood samples, with which they checked for fasting plasma glucose (FPG) and glycosylated haemoglobin (HbA1c), at specific intervals from 2010 to 2016.

They also developed air pollution and exposure models, among others.

Status quo: Indian cities have consistently dominated the tops of lists of places with the worst air for residents. FILE PHOTO

Based on their findings, the researchers reported that 10μg/m3 (micrograms per cubic metre air) difference "in annual average PM2.5" could be related to a 9-36% higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes. They have interpreted the long-term follow-up of study participants to mean that the link between type 2 diabetes and air pollution is "not due to intermittent episodes of high pollution levels" but "long-term exposure to ambient PM2.5".

They also reported that for every 10μg/m3 increase a month in PM2.5 levels, FPG increased by 0.21-0.58 mg/dL (milligrams per decilitre) and HbA1c by 0.012-0.024 in Delhi, and FPG increased -0.36-1.39 mg/dL and HbA1c 0.01-0.06 in Chennai. Over six months, a 10μg/m3 change in PM2.5 levels resulted in a rough doubling of both ranges in Delhi, but couldn't be associated with a statistically significant result in Chennai.

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Selfless van der Dussen happy to be the silent accumulator among South Africa's six-hitting superstars

However, the No. 3 batter changed things up against New Zealand as the Proteas saw an opportunity to pounce on the weakened Kiwi bowling attack after pacer Henry's injury midway through the innings

Pranay Rajiv
PUNE

No quality batting unit in ODI cricket can comprise solely of big-hitting, boundary-seeking superstars. The idea, as enticing as it is, is fraught with risk. Hence the need for the anchor - the water carrier, who enables others to bat without inhibition.

For South Africa, going into its match against New Zealand at the MCA Stadium on Wednesday, that was Rassie van der Dussen.

The Proteas have scythed through bowling attacks in this World Cup, with their batters topping the chart in most batting parameters.

While Quinton de Kock leads the run-scorers list with his elegant knocks up front, Heinrich Klaasen has dismantled bowlers with his remarkable six-hitting ability.

Sandwiched between them is the unassuming No.3 batter van der Dussen.

Until Wednesday, van der Dussen had been the bulwark of patience for the Proteas, opting to support his fellow batters and thereby maximising his team's potential to rake in huge totals.

Before today, among South African batters to have scored more than 120 runs in this World Cup, no one had a lower strike rate than van der Dussen. He also had the least number of sixes among this bunch, even lesser than bowling all-rounder Marco Jansen.

This outcome was not a reflection of his inability to bat fast - van der Dussen has a strike rate close to 130 in T20Is - but was a product of the South African team design.

Different roles

"We often joke about it, saying the reason Klaasen and the guys get millions at IPL (Indian Premier League) is because they can come in and hit sixes at the back. But it is a role that needs to be done, and from my side and other guys as well. I am really happy to be doing it," said van der Dussen on the eve of the New Zealand match.

But on Wednesday, against a disjointed Kiwi bowling held back by injuries, the 34-year-old unveiled his flamboyant side as he scored his second century of this World Cup.

The South African blueprint in the quadrennial event while batting first has been pretty simple. Bat at around six runs per over for around 30 overs, setting the platform for Klaasen and co. to tear it down at the death.

But today, the plan went in a different direction, not by South Africa's choice.

New Zealand, which lost Matt Henry to an injury midway through the innings, failed to make inroads as de Kock and van der Dussen put on a 200-run partnership. The latter mostly stuck to his role of silent accumulator, getting to his fifty in 61 balls, as his partner raced to his hundred.

Unused ammunition

This meant South Africa still had Klaasen and Aiden Markram left in the hut as unused ammunition, going into the end stage of the innings.

After centurion de Kock fell in the 40th over, South Africa decided to promote David Miller up the order, aiming to maintain the left-right partnership.

Van der Dussen, recognising the need to accelerate, turned on a gear. The right-handed batter went on a six-hitting spree, punishing Jimmy Neesham - who was forced into a long spell after Henry's injury - and Tim Southee.

He would eventually fall in the 48th over, but not after he got to 133, missing his personal best in ODIs by a run. This was also his first knock in this World Cup where he went faster than a run-a-ball.

After he walked back to the team dugout to a well-deserved round of applause from a hugely supportive Pune crowd, Miller and Klaasen went hammer and tongs.

South Africa ended with 357 for four, further cementing its credentials as the most destructive batting unit in the tournament.

Team spirit

Van der Dussen's words on Tuesday threw light on the cohesion within the South African team and the joy the players are finding in each other's success in India.

"It's amazing to see what you can achieve when you don't care who gets the credit for getting the win. So, there's a real sense of that in our team. And if that's going to help us win matches and win the World Cup, then I'll be happy not to be thanked for that," said van der Dussen.

On Wednesday, a selfless van der Dussen showed the world he is not one to be discounted in this ferocious batting spine.

M. VEDHAN

THE GIST

- Rassie van der Dussen has scored 353 runs from seven matches at a strike rate of 94.89 in this World Cup
- However, his 133 against New Zealand was struck at a rate of 112.71 which included nine boundaries and five maximums
- He also has a strike rate close to 130 in T20Is

Bumper barrage: Shakib has shown a propensity to succumb to the short stuff. AP

Shakib's discomfiture against the short ball seems to be a never-ending saga

Santadeep Dey
KOLKATA

Neither a lengthy net session under lights on the eve of the match against Pakistan nor a controversial trip back home during the course of the men's ODI World Cup to train with his childhood mentor proved beneficial for Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan as he perished to yet another short ball on Tuesday.

For a fleeting moment, it did seem Shakib (43, 64b, 4x4) would pull his team across to a 'safe' 250-plus score on a slow, gripping track in Kolkata. He momentarily woke up the 27,940-strong Eden Gardens crowd from its slumber with three back-to-back fours in the 37th over. At that point, it had been 53 deliveries since the ball last rolled down to the fence.

But it was 33-year-old Iftikhar Ahmed, a batting all-rounder armed with a handy off-spin, who was bearing the brunt. It meant Shakib was in familiar waters.

The inside-out lift over cover, the audacious sweep, and the punch straight down the ground were all on glorious display.

Weak against pace

Against pace, Shakib has struggled to the extent that the No. 1 all-rounder in the 50-over format shockingly finds his name at the very top of the list of batters who have the worst average versus fast bowlers in CWC23 (minimum 60 balls faced).

Shakib's 8.3 would have stuck out like a sore thumb on the list if not for the presence of English superstars Jos Buttler (13.2, five dismissals) and Ben Stokes (12.7, three outs) in the top five. In the six World Cup games he has played thus far, he has always been sent back to the hut by a pacer.

Having faced 156 short balls in the 2019 men's World Cup, Shakib had scored 160 runs. And he wasn't dismissed even once. When Bangladesh's score breached the 100-run mark against Pakistan on Tuesday, Shakib had scored 21 off 26 short balls.

He has fallen to the short delivery five times now, arguably the most remarkable of these dismissals coming against Afghanistan. His trigger movement on the back foot had him slash hard at a slower bouncer from Azmatullah Omarzai. As a result, a thick top-edge ballooned to Fazalhaq Farooqi at deep square-leg.

Strategy discussed

Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf sniggered after dismissing Shakib with the short-ball ploy on Tuesday. Moreover, although he wasn't aware of a specific plan to bowl short to the Bangladesh skipper, Player-of-the-Match Fakhar Zaman said that employing the short-pitched stuff against the Tigers was something that was discussed.

So, what goes wrong? According to former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar on *Star Sports' Masterclass*, Shakib's tendency to ride the bounce with hard hands coupled with an awkward swivel pull is mostly what has been causing his undoing lately. There are two methods to deal with the nagging issue.

The first, a defensive approach, is what we had often seen Virender Sehwag do. The former Indian batter used to stretch himself to meet the rising ball with a straight bat pointing downward.

An aggressive approach would require one to get behind the line of the ball quickly before pulling with soft hands.

But surprisingly, Shakib himself had set up a masterclass in the same way back in the first ODI against New Zealand in 2016 in Christchurch. Although he scored 59 and Bangladesh went on to lose the game by 77 runs, it was a memory that would linger.

Shakib had found himself in the middle in the 12th over with the scoreboard reading 48 for three. James Neesham had just completed a double-wicket maiden.

The next over saw Lockie Ferguson welcome the new man with a snorter. Though the ball sailed wide down leg, Shakib would have already guessed by then what was to follow.

And right on cue, a series of perfume balls started flying in. Five overs later, one got to see the first sign of aggression from the batter as Shakib swiftly gyrated on his back-foot to pull Neesham over backward square. No real power, but exquisite timing.

Tim Southee was up next, and this time the short ball rose outside off. Shakib was quick to reach out on one leg to bludgeon this over mid-wicket.

The most impressive over may have been the 24th when Shakib scored two boundaries against the bouncer. Soon after the fielder at mid-wicket was moved to gully, Shakib smartly pulled through the no man's land. Two balls later, he used the pace to his advantage to dab one through point.

He will be facing the Kiwis once again when the World Cup concludes, but this time it won't be against the picture-postcard hilly backdrop of the Hagley Oval.

The New Zealand team will travel to Bangladesh for two Tests, three ODIs, and three T20Is between November 28 and December 31.

As things stand, the Bangla Tigers are out of contention for a place in the CWC23 semifinal, having suffered six straight defeats. They are also likely to miss out on a Champions Trophy 2025 berth, the tournament after which Shakib had planned to hang his boots.

If Shakib continues to play after the ongoing World Cup, the 36-year-old will hope to somehow repair the chinks in his armour as quickly as possible.

THIS DAY, THAT YEAR

'Term Karnataka makes us proud citizens of a republic'

Khaji Arshed Ali, journalist and former MLC

Unification of Karnataka was the fruition of the aspirations of millions who were culturally and socially similar to each other, but were living across different borders. While "Mysore" is reminiscent of the rule of kings, the term "Karnataka" makes us proud of being citizens of a republic.

I clearly remember what happened around that time in the Congress legislature party and the Mysore Assembly. Many legislators from Old Mysore area were afraid of losing the identity of the princely State if the State was renamed. However, northern Karnataka was elated at the name change. We organised a celebration in Bidar. We gathered at the Ambedkar Circle, burst crackers and distributed sweets. Similar celebrations were organised in cities like Gulbarga, Dharwad, Bijapur and even small towns.

That was a significant day in my life as a citizen and journalist. I would like to believe that we gained a new identity with the name change. I also believe that the struggle for unification had culminated in the renaming of the state.

'Those in rural areas did not know what had happened'

B.T. Lalitha Naik, politician, social activist and writer

I was in Raichur at that time. I was not active in politics, but I was writing. There was much demand from North Karnataka regions to rename the State. When the State was finally named Karnataka, there were celebrations everywhere. Every building was decorated to commemorate the occasion.

Those in rural areas did not even know what exactly had happened. They used to say "Nam oorige hosa hesru banthu" (our town got a new name). This just goes to show how proud all the citizens were as we finally had a name.

Poets and writers wrote songs about Karnataka and Kannada. I was called to various places to speak.

"Udayavagali Namma Cheluva Kannada Nadu" had almost become an anthem across the State as we could hear it everywhere. In fact, until Kuvempu's "Jaya Bharatha Jananiya Tanujaathe" came around, "Udayavagali" was like the Naada Geethe (State song).

Siddaramaiah reiterates primacy of language on Kannada Rajyotsava

Chief Minister says he will write to the Centre expressing opposition to conducting competitive examinations only in English and Hindi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Reiterating that Kannada should be the administrative language to take programmes to Kannada people across the State, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said that he would write to the Centre expressing opposition to conduct of examinations only in English and Hindi.

Leading the State-wide celebrations of the 68th Kannada Rajyothsava and 50 years of renaming Mysore state as Karnataka in a colourful event at the Kanteerava Stadium here organised by School Education and Literacy department, the Chief Minister said, "Government correspondence and administrative language should be in Kannada because we have to converse with Kannadigas. Only when corresponding with neighbouring states and the Centre, English should be used. If administration and programmes have to effectively reach people, Kannada should be used effectively."

He said that the Centre's move in conducting examinations in English and Hindi should be opposed. "Examination should be conducted in the language known to the locals. I will write to the Prime Minister."

In a veiled advice to non-Kannadigas, the Chief Minister said, "Unlike in other states, you can survive in Karnataka by speaking Telugu, Malayalam or Tamil without speaking in Kannada. This is true in several areas. I am not insisting that other languages should not be learnt, but speak in Kannada. Everyone should understand that Kannada is the sovereign language here."

Speaking on the medium of instruction, he said, "The medium of instruction should be Kannada and several efforts have been made in this regard. Courts are also not cooperating with our efforts and have said that the decision on medium is with the parents. Kannadigas should make the decision to learn in Kannada medium at least till SSLC." He said that there was misconception among people that only English medium helps become scholars and find employment.

The Chief Minister also took a dig at the previous BJP government for not celebrating the golden jubilee of renaming of the State in a proper manner. "Technically, the State should have observed the event last year and should have completed the celebrations this year. The previous government did not do so. I had announced in the budget that from November 1, 2023, to November 1 2024, the State will observe Karnataka Sambhrama."

He said the Congress government is making efforts to build a "Vibrant Karnataka" by implementing four of the five guarantees that is empowering people socially and economically, he added.

Schoolchildren marching at the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Vidhana Soudha illuminated in the colours of the Kannada flag on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Free power, water supply to govt. schools

Schoolchildren march past Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and other leaders at Kanteerava Stadium . K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Kannada Rajyotsava day announced the supply of free electricity and water to government schools with immediate effect. He said there have been efforts to improve Kannada-medium schools to ensure uniform good quality education. His announcement came after a request from the Education Department.

"It is possible to provide good education in Kannada medium and government schools also and it is not restricted to English medium alone," he said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined Kannadigas in celebrating the occasion. In a message in both Kannada and English on X, Mr. Modi said, "On this Kannada Rajyotsava, we celebrate the spirit of Karnataka – a cradle of ancient innovation and modern enterprise."

Unique Kannada campaigns launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On Wednesday, which marked 50 years since the christening of the State as Karnataka, many organisations in Bengaluru kick-started unique initiatives to showcase the heritage and the elements that are local to the State.

Azim Premji University released the first episode of its podcast series, 'Noorakke Nooru Karnataka' on Radio Azim Premji University. "As the name suggests, this podcast is completely about Karnataka. In every episode, which would be released once a month for the next 12 months, we will choose topics like songs, people, events, products or organisations that play a role in the State's history," said a faculty member from APU involved with the podcast The first episode focuses on Nanjangud Tooth Powder. The conversations on the podcasts are hosted by Shraddha of 'Ayyo Shraddha' fame.

The 'Karnataka's Inclusive Alphabet' campaign was also launched by Bahutva Karnataka. With Constitution Day coming up on November 26, this social media campaign will integrate ideas of pluralism and democracy into the future of democracy by portraying them creatively with the Kannada alphabet. "We wanted to do something focused on Karnataka and the ideas of pluralism and diversity propagated by many great writers and thinkers of the State," said Anupama Hegde from Bahutva Karnataka.

Winners all

Rajyotsava Award winners with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj S. Tangadagi and others at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

November Fest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The YWCA of Bengaluru city is hosting 'November Fest', its annual fund-raising programme, on November 4.

The fest features a flea market, handicrafts, jewellery, home decor, clothing, decoupage, kokedama, live music, and a painting competition. It will be held on its premises in 6th Block, adjacent to Koramangala police station, Koramangala,from 10.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. call 080-25634813.

One more case against Puneeth Kerehalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sampigehalli police registered a case against cow vigilante Puneeth Kerehalli for allegedly verbally abusing and threatening a Kannada activist.

Based on the complaint filed by Bairappa Harish Kumar, the police on Tuesday registered a case against Puneeth Kerehalli charging him under the Atrocities Act, IT Act and also for criminal intimidation, intentional insult and also for insulting the modesty of a woman of IPC. Kumar said Puneeth, who has many cases against pending against him, was also booked under Goonda Act.

During this period, Harish Kumar had shared his criminal records on social media. Puneeth then posted a derogatory and abusive post on his account demeaning him and his family members, he alleged.

Water adalat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BWSSB will hold a water adalat on Thursday across the city to settle problems related to billing, delay in providing water supply and sanitary connections, delay in converting domestic to non-domestic connection, etc.

It will be held from 9.30 a.m to 11 a.m. in East 1-1, East 2-1, South East 1, South East 4, West 1-1, West 2-1, North West 1, North West 3, Central 1-1, North East 1, and North 1-1 sub divisions.

BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

Aster DM Healthcare launches Aster Whitefield Hospital, a 506-bed Multi-Specialty Hospital at Whitefield

Aster DM Healthcare, one of the leading private healthcare service providers in GCC and India, today announced the expansion of its Aster Whitefield Hospital to become a full-fledged, cutting-edge multi-super-specialty hospital located in the heart of Whitefield, Bengaluru. Aster Whitefield will be Aster's 3rd multi-specialty hospital in Bengaluru and overall 19th hospital in India. The hospital was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Shri. Dinesh Gundu Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Guest of Honour Shri U. T. Khader, Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly; Shri. Sharanprakash R Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education Government of Karnataka in the presence of Dr. Azad Moopen, Founder Chairman and Managing Director, Aster DM Healthcare. Other prominent dignitaries were also present at the launch. Aster Whitefield Hospital will offer Aster's Centres of Excellence in Oncology, Cardiac Sciences, Neurosciences, Gastroenterology, Women & Child care and more bringing international standards of care to Bengaluru. The hospital will be the first centre in India to offer Intra Operative Electron Radiation Therapy (IOERT) for precision treatment of Cancer. True to Aster's brand promise of 'We'll treat you well', the new hospital will offer patients a world-class experience and enhance the city's healthcare excellence.

HAL and Safran Aircraft Engines Sign MoU for Commercial Engine Parts Manufacturing

HAL and Safran Aircraft Engines signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop industrial cooperation in Ring forging manufacturing for commercial engines. The MoU was signed by Mr. Mihir Kanti Mishra, CEO (Bangalore Complex), HAL and Mr. Dominique Dupuy, Senior Vice President (Purchasing), Safran Aircraft Engines in Bengaluru in the presence of key officials from both companies yesterday. Mr. C.B. Ananthakrishnan, Chairman & Managing Director (Additional Charge), HAL said they were proud to take this partnership to another level, and to develop their skills in key technologies. Jean-Paul Alary, CEO, Safran Aircraft Engines said they were delighted to expand their collaboration with HAL, which is already part of the LEAP Supply Chain through their joint-venture in Bengaluru dedicated to the production of aero-engines pipes. An Industrial Cooperation Contract was also signed by Mr. Anil Kumar VN, GM (F&F), HAL and Mr. Jean Michel, Strategy Director and India Development for Safran Military Division.

Introducing the 2nd Bengaluru Gold Festival: Shining a Spotlight on the "Golden City" Bengaluru

Recently The Jewellers Association, Bengaluru launched the 2nd Bengaluru Gold Festival with great pomp an exquisite celebration of all things gold.This festival has united 145 participants hailing from Bengaluru, Tumkuru, Shimoga, Davanagere, Hassan, Tiptur, and Bellary. the festival's mission is to unveil Bengaluru's deep-rooted connection to gold, rebranding the city as the illustrious "Golden City," in addition to its renowned titles as the "Garden City" and "Health City." The response from customers and participants has been nothing short of spectacular, with footfalls reaching unprecedented numbers. As the festival unfolds, it brings with it a promise of fortune, over the course of four weekly draws. The Jewellers Association of Bengaluru extends a warm invitation to the public to "Save in gold, for gold will save you." The 2nd Bengaluru Gold Festival is a reminder of the city's timeless association with gold, where residents and visitors alike can share in the excitement of this gilded journey.

Sagar Hospital organises "Ride for Stroke" Bikeathon for Stroke Awareness & Management

In commemoration of World Stroke Day, Sagar Hospitals organised an inspiring bikeathon event uniting approximately 300 dedicated bikers in a rally for stroke awareness and management. The event, held under the banner of "Ride for Stroke," commenced at National Grounds, Basavangudi, and concluded at Dayananda Sagar Football Grounds, covering critical ground in spreading awareness about stroke. Transport Minister Mr. Ramalinga Reddy inaugurated two pioneering initiatives; the Stroke Ambulance and the Stroke Clinic at Sagar Hospitals, Banashankari unit. The Minister said that this bikeathon signifies the collective commitment to raising awareness about stroke, a silent yet devastating health challenge. The launch of the Stroke Ambulance and Stroke Clinic by Sagar Hospitals was a significant step towards ensuring timely and effective stroke management in their region. Ms. Ishiqa Multani, President of Sagar Group of Hospitals added that they were truly honoured to have witnessed such an outpouring of support for their cause. Stroke awareness and management are critical, and they are committed to continuing their efforts in this direction. The Stroke Ambulance and Stroke Clinic are their contributions to improving stroke care in their community. Prominent medical professionals, including Dr. Madhusudan, Lead Consultant Neurologist and Stroke and Epilepsy Specialist, Dr. S Saravanan, Consultant Neurologist, and Dr. Arun L Naik, Senior Consultant Neurosurgeon, graced the occasion and shared their invaluable insights into stroke management.

A BG-BGE

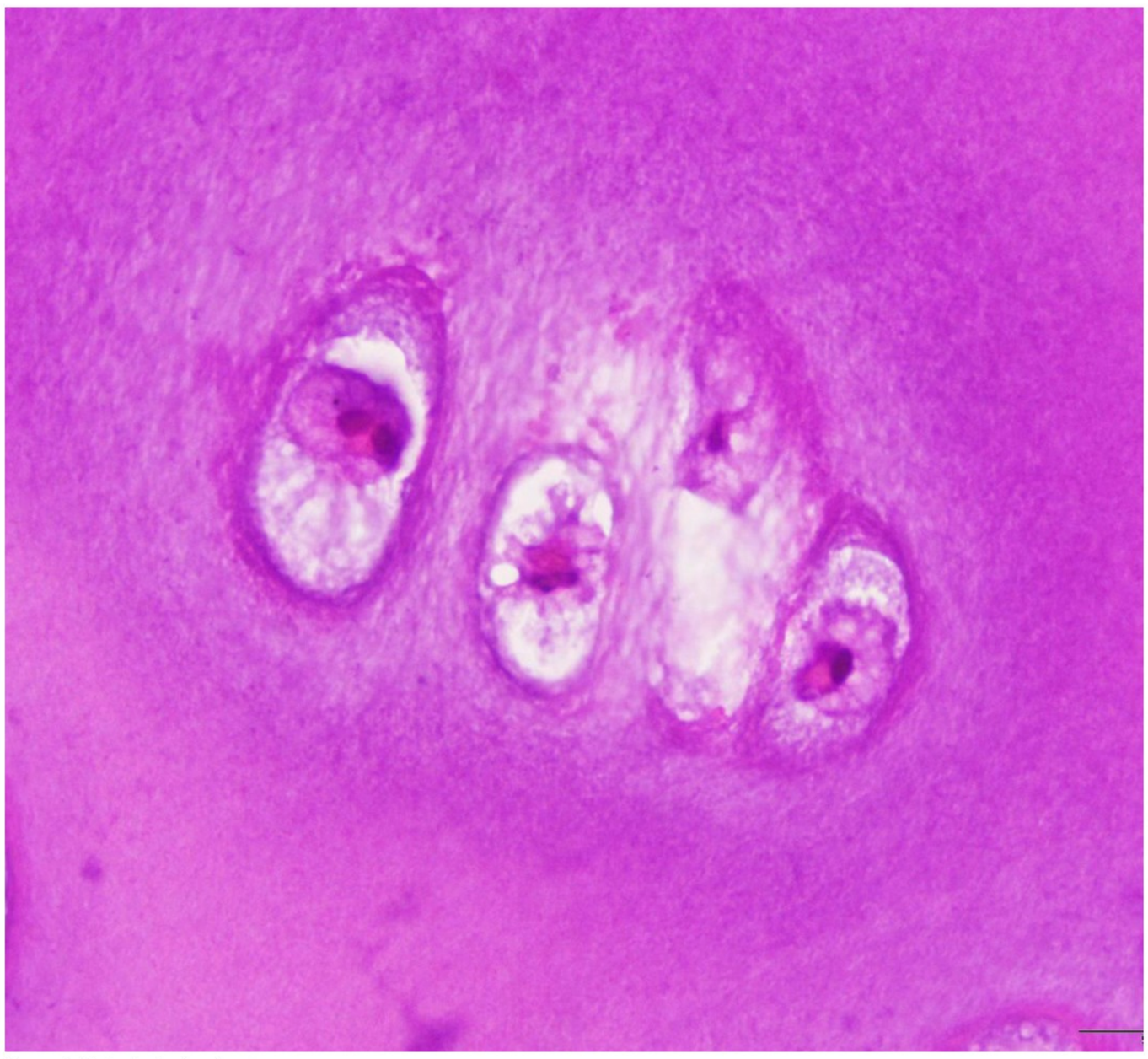
Haemoglobin isn't used only in blood, scientists discover

A breakthrough discovery has revealed that haemoglobin isn't used by red blood cells alone. In a study, scientists from China reported that chondrocytes – cells that make cartilage, the connecting tissue between bones – also make haemoglobin and seem to depend on it for their survival

Rohini Subrahmanyam

Textbooks have said for decades that haemoglobin is found in the red blood cells (RBCs), that it makes blood red, carries oxygen, and is essential for our survival.

A new and serendipitous discovery has revealed that haemoglobin isn't used by RBCs alone. In a study published in *Nature*, scientists from China have reported that chondrocytes - cells that make cartilage, the connecting tissue between bones - also make haemoglobin and seem to depend on it for their survival.



Haemoglobin bodies in chondrocyte. FENG ZHANG/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Haemoglobin bodies'

Feng Zhang, a pathologist in the Fourth Military Medical University in China, had been working on bone development since 2010. In 2017, when he was studying growth plates - cartilaginous tissue at the end of certain long bones that allow the bones to become longer - he stumbled upon a few spherical blob-like structures. They seemed to bear an uncanny resemblance to RBCs, and they contained haemoglobin.

Dr. Zhang then teamed up with Quiang Sun at the Beijing Institute of Biotechnology and used advanced microscopy techniques to investigate further.

Picture what happens when oil is mixed into water: the oil separates out into little globules in a process called phase separation. That's what seemed to be happening in the chondrocytes in the cartilage as well. Dr. Zhang ascertained that the chondrocytes within the growth plates of newborn mice were not only producing large amounts of haemoglobin, but also that it was coalescing and forming large blobs without a membrane.

The scientists called these blobs haemoglobin bodies, or *Hedy*.

The haemoglobin does something

Now that they knew chondrocytes were making haemoglobin bodies, the question was: were the Hedy functional? That is, did they actually do something? To test this, the scientists used genetically modified mice, in this case mice in which the gene making haemoglobin had been removed. These mice produced almost no haemoglobin molecules and they died as embryos. But it turned out that if one looked closely at the growth plate cartilage tissue from these mice, most of the chondrocytes were dying.

Removing the gene that made haemoglobin specifically in the cartilage tissue also resulted in the same outcome: cell death among the chondrocytes. It was clear that Hedy was essential for the chondrocytes to live.

In RBCs, haemoglobin carries oxygen and makes sure that different parts of the body receive the oxygen to function correctly. The scientists conducted a series of experiments to check whether haemoglobin also carries oxygen in chondrocytes. First, they checked if the cartilage cells showed signs of stress before dying when haemoglobin molecules were absent. They focused on a special type of stress called hypoxic stress, caused by low-oxygen conditions. And indeed they did: cartilage that didn't contain haemoglobin showed signs of hypoxic stress.

An oxygen store

Now they knew that the absence of haemoglobin caused the chondrocytes to go through some sort of low-oxygen stress. They then wanted to see how normal and haemoglobin-free chondrocytes behaved when there is little oxygen in the cells' environment. The researchers proceeded to test the cells in a low-oxygen, or hypoxic, environment. In the presence of haemoglobin, the cells seemed to release more oxygen. But in the absence of haemoglobin, the chondrocytes started dying.

This further confirmed their hunch that the haemoglobin in the chondrocytes was most likely storing oxygen and supplying it to the cells when required.

"What's really interesting about this paper is that they picked up on this unusual finding and delved deep into its aspects," said Noriaki Ono, a bone biologist at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. He wasn't involved in the study.

Haemoglobin in other places

In a developing growth plate, where oxygen is limited due to a lack of blood supply to the region, the chondrocytes still manage to thrive. Based on the scientists' findings, it's the haemoglobin molecules that manage to bring them the oxygen they need to survive.

"What surprised me the most was that cartilage tissue synthesised a large amount of hemoglobin to cope with hypoxic stress," Dr. Zhang told this writer by email.

> Chondrocytes within the growth plates of newborn mice were not only producing large amounts of haemoglobin, it was also coalescing and forming large blobs without a membrane

A 2003 study had shown that chondrocytes adapt to low oxygen by, among other things, using an alternate pathway to break down sugars to release energy - one that doesn't require oxygen. This study shed light on a different mechanism with which chondrocytes dealt with reduced oxygen supply.

The scientists also found that cartilage in regions outside the growth plate, like the one in the ribs or the spine of mice, also contained haemoglobin. What we don't know yet for sure is whether the haemoglobin in these regions plays a similar role, in storing and releasing oxygen.

'Really exciting possibility'

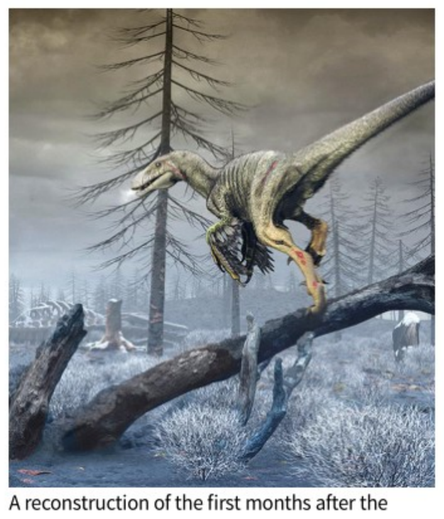
"What is important in this paper is that it breaks down barriers between haematology and skeletal biology, and shows that, in fact, these fields are more connected than it seems," said Gerard Karsenty, a professor studying skeletal biology at Columbia University, New York.

We also don't know if the Hedy has more functions or other effects on cells in the growth plate. Dr. Ono, who discovered a bone-making stem cell population in the growth plate in 2018, is intrigued by the possibilities this discovery opens for stem cells and their fates in the growth plate. "One really exciting possibility is that the haemoglobin in the growth plate could be doing something about changing the ... fate of stem cells in the growth plate," he said.

The discovery of functional haemoglobin in cartilage also leads to the possibility that it plays a role in certain joint diseases. "There are many bone deformities that develop from defects in chondrocytes," according to Dr. Ono. "Maybe there is more cell death in some conditions due to having something wrong with the chondrocyte haemoglobin."

Dr. Zhang added that he "hopes this discovery can reinterpret the mechanisms underlying some joint diseases."

(Rohini Subrahmanyam is a freelance journalist.)



A reconstruction of the first months after the asteroid impact. REUTERS

Dino-killing asteroid kicked up mountains of dust

Reuters

It was, to put it mildly, a bad day on the earth when an asteroid smacked Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula 66 million years ago, causing a global calamity that erased three-quarters of the world's species and ended the age of dinosaurs.

The immediate effects included wildfires, quakes, a massive shockwave in the air, and huge standing waves in the seas. But the coup de grâce for many species may have been the climate catastrophe that unfolded in the following years as the skies were darkened by clouds of debris and temperatures plunged.

Researchers on October 30 revealed the potent role that dust from pulverised rock ejected into the atmosphere from the impact site may have played in driving

Fine-grained dust could have blocked photosynthesis for two years by rendering the atmosphere opaque to sunlight and remained in the atmosphere for 15 years

extinctions, choking the atmosphere and blocking photosynthesis.

The total amount of dust, they calculated, was about 2,000 billion tonnes - exceeding 11-times the weight of Mt. Everest.

The researchers ran palaeoclimate simulations based on sediment unearthed at a North Dakota palaeontological site that preserved evidence of the post-impact conditions.

The simulations showed this fine-grained dust could have blocked photosynthesis for up to two years by rendering the atmosphere opaque to sunlight and remained in the atmosphere for 15 years, said planetary scientist Cem Berk Senel of the Royal Observatory of Belgium and Vrije Universiteit Brussel, lead author of the study published in the journal Nature Geoscience.

While prior research highlighted two other factors - sulphur released after the impact and soot from wildfires - this study indicated dust played a larger role than previously known.

The dust - silicate particles measuring about 0.8-8.0 micrometers - that formed a global cloud layer were spawned from the granite and gneiss rock pulverized in the violent impact that gouged the Yucatan's Chicxulub crater, 180 km wide and 20 km deep.

In the aftermath, the earth experienced a drop in surface temperatures of about 15 degrees Celsius.

"It was cold and dark for years," Vrije Universiteit Brussel planetary scientist and study co-author Philippe Claeys said.

Earth descended into an "impact winter," with global temperatures plummeting and primary productivity - the process land and aquatic plants and other organisms use to make food from inorganic sources - collapsing, causing a chain reaction of extinctions. As plants died, herbivores starved. Carnivores were left without prey and perished. In marine realms, the demise of tiny phytoplankton caused food webs to crash.

"While the sulphur stayed about eight to nine years, soot and silicate dust resided in the atmosphere for about 15 years after the impact," Royal Observatory of Belgium planetary scientist and study co-author Özgür Karatekin said

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Telescopes behind famous astronomical findings

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

While using this antenna in 1964-1965, two American astronomers, Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson, noted some weak radio interference that was equal in all directions. They had discovered the cosmic microwave background, a crucial piece of evidence for the Big Bang. Name the telescope.

QUESTION 2

This is a group of five telescopes located in Namibia designed to study low- to high-energy gamma rays from space. Since 2003, this group has been instrumental in spatially resolving gamma-ray sources and identifying many previously unknown high-energy sources. Name it.

QUESTION 3

This telescope is the world's largest and most sensitive at detecting signals from space at the lower end of the radio frequency. It was conceived of by the famous astronomer Govind Swarup. Among various other feats, in 2018, it located and studied a galaxy 12 billion light years away. Name this telescope.

QUESTION 4

The Indian Space Research Organisation launched Astrosat in September 2015. Name its predecessor – an instrument to study sources of X-ray radiation in space that was launched onboard a remote-sensing satellite in 1996.

QUESTION 5

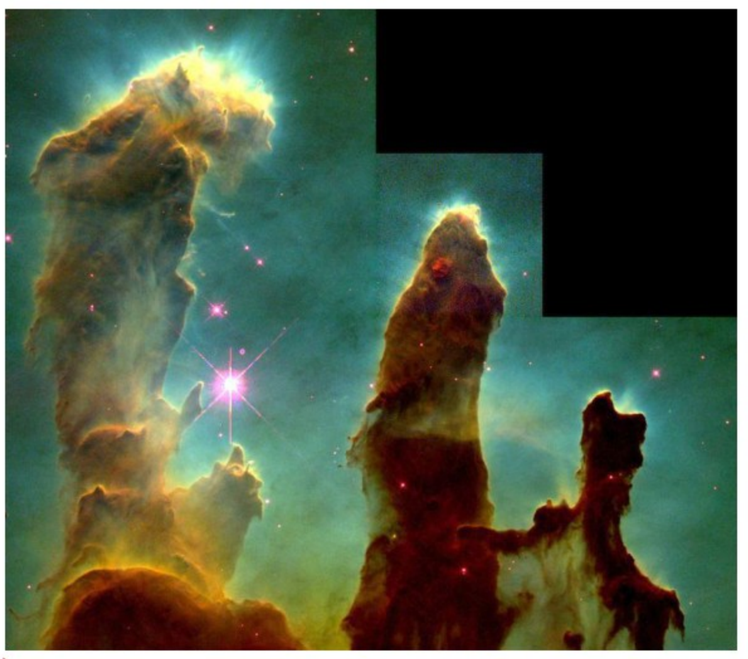
This telescope in South India consists of an antenna half a kilometre long and 30 metres high. This size means it's sensitive enough to spot a radio signal of power 1 W from 10 million km away. Name this telescope.

Answers to October 31 quiz:

1. Ocean basins that make up the world's water expanse – **Ans: Five (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, Southern)**
2. Ocean accepted as such by IHO in 2000 – **Ans: Southern Ocean**
3. Landmass that the Southern Ocean encircles – **Ans: Antarctica**
4. Feature of Southern Ocean being disrupted since around 2016 – **Ans: Increase in extent of winter sea ice**
5. Attribute of other oceans that the Southern Ocean regulates – **Ans: Water temperature**

Visual: **Emperor penguins**

First contact: Harsha Makkuva | Nitesh Kumar | Abhay Gandhi



Visual: Name these columns of interstellar gas and dust in the Eagle Nebula. This image is one of the most iconic taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. NASA, JEFF HESTER, PAUL SCOWEN

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

'Leopard shot at after it attacked four people'

Forest Dept. personnel can open fire in self-defence if the animal turns aggressive and poses a threat to them or the public, say experts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The death of the leopard on the prowl to a gunshot by the Forest Department personnel, while they were trying to capture it on Wednesday on the outskirts of Bengaluru, has evoked an emotional response among Bengalureans, especially on social media, with many questioning if there was a need to shoot the big cat.

However, experts said that forest personnel can open fire in self-defence if the animal turns aggressive and poses a threat to the personnel or to the public.

Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) S.S. Lingaraja told *The Hindu* that that the big cat was shot at only after it attacked four people on Wednesday. "It attacked one of our veterinarians, one of our leopard task force personnel and later two more personnel. Only when it attacked the fourth person did we open fire even though we had permission to shoot if the animal turned aggressive or attacked our personnel grievously," Mr. Lingaraja said. He added that the tranquilizer was not very effective in this operation.

A video grab of the leopard, which was on the prowl for the past five days, shot dead during capture, at Kudlu Gate in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A wildlife expert who did not wish to be named said that under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, personnel involved in an operation to capture the animal can open fire in self-defence. "The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, allows it," said the expert.

Sanjay Mohan, former Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF-Wildlife), Karnataka, said that incidents such as this normally do not happen. "Normally we are very successful in capturing the wild animals. We have got a lot of experience in safely capturing whether it is elephants or leopards," Mr. Mohan said. "With animals some accidents may happen and in this case an unfortunate thing has happened. However, I am not fully aware of what the situation was and how this incident happened," he said.

From Page One

Leopard, on the prowl for 5 days, dies of gunshot wounds

Earlier in the day, a veterinarian who went to tranquillise the leopard was attacked by the big cat. The leopard scratched the veterinarian, Kiran, on his neck, and he is said to be out of danger. It reportedly attacked another person later while a combing operation was on.

"For the last five days, the leopard, which was spotted near Kudlu Gate, was creating a lot of anxiety among the local residents. Our personnel from Bengaluru, BBP, and a team from Mysuru were trying to capture it. Today, the leopard attacked Dr. Kiran and one more personnel. They suffered grievous injuries. Finally, we managed to capture it, and during the process, it leapt on another personnel who fired a shot at the leopard in self-defence. Thereafter, we brought it to the BBP, where we tried to revive it, but it succumbed," Mr. Lingaraja told reporters.

Replying to a query on whether the department has permission to fire at the animal, Mr. Lingaraja said, "Chief Wild Warden can give permission for shooting if it attacks any personnel grievously during an operation. We had taken permission from the Chief Wild Warden after two of our personnel were attacked grievously," Mr. Lingaraja said.

Mr. Lingaraja told *The Hindu* that the post-mortem was being conducted at the BBP by three veterinarians, including two who were part of the operation to capture the leopard. He said the post-mortem report will be out in a day or two.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, NOV. 02	
RISE	06:13 SET 17:53
RISE	21:50 SET 10:20
FRIDAY, NOV. 03	
RISE	06:14 SET 17:53
RISE	22:45 SET 11:14
SATURDAY, NOV. 04	
RISE	06:14 SET 17:52
RISE	23:39 SET 12:03

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower is likely to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of moderate rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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CM writes to Modi requesting waiver of import taxes on medicine for baby with rare disease

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking help for the treatment of a 15-month-old boy from Karnataka, who has been diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) type 2, a rare genetic disease.

Posting the letter dated October 27 on X (formerly Twitter) on Wednesday, the Chief Minister has requested the Prime Minister to waive off the import taxes on Zolgensma, the expensive ₹17.5 crore single-dose injection, required for the child's treatment. He has also urged the Prime Minister to consider allocating monetary support from the PM CARES Fund to assist with the procurement of the injection.

"The exorbitant cost of the medication presents a formidable challenge for the family to access this crucial treatment. While the drug's price itself is overwhelming, the added import taxes substantially increase the financial burden. Understanding the dire need to support young Maurya, I earnestly request your benevolent intervention in waiving off the import duty on the medicine and provision of financial aid under PM CARES Fund," the letter stated.

"Such compassionate steps will significantly alleviate the financial burden on Maurya's family, reflecting our nation's commitment to championing the health and well-being of its youngest citizens. I genuinely believe that the gravity of the situation and the life of a young child hanging in the balance warrants our collective action and support. I am confident that with your kind intervention, we can extend our collective support and offer a ray of hope to young Maurya and his family," the Chief Minister said in the letter.

Loss of nerve cells

Ann Agnes Mathew, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist and Neuromascular Specialist, at Baptist Hospital who is treating the boy, said SMA is a disease caused by loss of nerve cells, which carry electrical signals from the brain to the muscles. "The protein needed for this signaling is coded by a gene for which everyone has two copies – one from the mother and the other from the father. A child develops this disorder only if both the copies are faulty. Without treatment, this disease is ultimately fatal," she said. "The disease, as it progresses, makes it extremely difficult for the babies to carry out basic activities like sitting up, lifting their head or swallowing milk. This child is still well preserved and timely treatment can help him," said the doctor.

500 children

The doctor, who has over 500 SMA children under her care currently, said as many as 29 children have been lucky to get free medicine after they were selected through a lottery under a compassionate access programme by Novartis, the Swiss drugmaker. This lottery is held once in two weeks for SMA children across the world as of now.

"The therapy was approved by U.S. regulators in May 2019 and has since then turned into a miracle drug for this rare disorder. We have applied for free gene therapy under the lottery system for over 120 children so far," the doctor said. The toddler's parents – Mallikarjun Chanappagoudar and Madhuri – have taken to crowdfunding on ImpactGuru.com, a crowdfunding platform, to cover the cost of Zolgensma.

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

NAMASMARAN 2023 – a three day mega bhajan event dedicated to Saint Sri Purandaradasa and Pudukkottai Sri Gopalakrishna Bhagavathaswamy from 3rd – 5th November 2023 at Sri SurabharathiSanskrit & Cultural Foundation,9th C Main, HRBR Layout 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru – 560043(Located on the Service Road, Adjacent to the Water Tank) Ph. 9739084469 / 9845537677 fb.me/namasmaranpage

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Sri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Sri. D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Ecology & Environment Department, **Sri. Eshwar B. Khandre** holding a meeting with the Department Officials.

According to Wildlife Protection Act - 1972,

Trading animals or animal articles

Hunting, capturing, keeping, selling, purchasing, transporting, trading, engaging in the business of meat trade or consumption of wildlife

Hunting

Use of animal Skin

Engaging in trade, offering as gifts, purchasing, vending, transporting or transferring wildlife articles, trophies, horns, skins, nails, hooves, teeth or ornaments crafted from wildlife materials

Use of ornaments made from wild animals claws / hair / teeth

is a punishable offence

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The journalists killed in the Israel-Hamas conflict

34 Reporters Without Borders accused both sides of committing war crimes and called on the International Criminal Court to investigate the deaths. The latest complaint cites the deliberate destruction of more than 50 media outlets in Gaza. AP

The rural households given tap water connection

70 in percentage. The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water to all households in rural India by 2024. Of the 19.24 crore rural households, 13.47 crore households have been provided tap water connections till now. PTI

The revenue earned through the disposal of scrap

10 in ₹ crore. The Mines Ministry freed up 89,482 sq ft of space by disposing of scrap, converting the freed-up space into a volleyball ground and badminton court for employees. The Ministry said it converted the physical files into e-files. PTI

The applications for IT hardware imports cleared by government

110 The government has cleared all except for one of the total 111 applications submitted, including those of Apple, Dell and Lenovo, that sought permission for the imports of IT hardware products like laptops and computers. PTI

The share of Ukrainians in need of humanitarian aid

40 in percentage. About 18 million Ukrainians need some form of aid, and their needs will be magnified as winter approaches, as per the UN Humanitarian Office Director of Coordination. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Understanding the U.S.-Israel relations

What event brought about a paradigm shift in the way Washington looked at the Jewish state? What is the basis of the 'the special relationship' between the two countries? How do pro-Israeli forces exert a strong influence in the U.S. public sphere?

EXPLAINER

Stanly Johny

The story so far:

Within days of the October 7 attack by Hamas inside Israel, killing at least 1,400 people, President Joe Biden travelled to Israel to declare solidarity with the Jewish state. Mr. Biden described Hamas as "unadulterated evil" and stated that America "stands with Israel". Since the October 7 attack, Israel has been bombing Gaza relentlessly and is currently carrying out a ground invasion in which at least 8,700 Palestinians have already been killed. The U.S. has been careful not to criticise Israel even in the face of the latter's disproportionate attack on the tiny enclave of 2.3 million people. The U.S. has also vetoed a UN Security Council resolution that called for a humanitarian pause to Israel's attacks and voted against a resolution at the UN General Assembly calling for a humanitarian truce, which was passed with a landslide. This is not surprising given the history of the U.S.-Israel relations. Barring minor personality clashes between leaders, the U.S. has stood solidly behind Israel, irrespective of the latter's actions, at least since 1967.

What are origins of U.S.-Israel ties?

The U.S. had supported the idea of a Jewish homeland even before the state of Israel was declared within historical Palestine in 1948. On March 3, 1919, two years after the Balfour Declaration, in which the British government declared its support for the creation of a "Jewish homeland in Palestine", President Woodrow Wilson said, "The allied nations with the fullest concurrence of our government and people are agreed that in Palestine shall be laid the foundations of a Jewish Commonwealth." In 1922 and 1944, the U.S. Congress passed resolutions endorsing the Balfour Declaration. The U.S. was the first country that recognised Israel in 1948. The recognition came in 11 minutes after the proclamation. "I had faith in Israel before it was established, I have faith in it now," President Harry Truman said on May 26, 1952.

Though the U.S. offered the state of Israel support right from the latter's birth, the initial two decades of their relationship had not been very smooth. The Eisenhower administration was unhappy when Israel, along with France and Britain, launched the Suez war. Washington threatened to cut aid to Israel if it did not withdraw from the territories it had captured. The Soviet Union also threatened to fire missiles unless Israel withdrew, and finally Israel had to pull back from the areas it seized. Similarly, in the 1960s, the Kenney administration had voiced concerns about Israel's secret nuclear programme.

However the 1967 war, in which Israel defeated Jordan, Syria and Egypt, all in six days, and captured swathes of territories, brought in a paradigm shift in the way Washington looked at the Jewish state. The U.S. at that time was bogged down in Vietnam. Israel defeated the Arab countries without any major help from the U.S., and the war was wrapped up quickly. Also, two of the Arab countries Israel defeated – Egypt and Syria – were Soviet allies. From then on, the U.S. started seeing Israel as a stable ally who can check the expansion of Soviet influence in West Asia.

What is the current status of the U.S.-Israel ties?

Today, Israel is an exceptional ally of Washington. The U.S. offers practically unconditional financial, military and political support for Israel, which has been occupying Palestinian territories since 1967. Israel is an undeclared nuclear power but has never faced any global scrutiny or pushback, thanks to the protection offered by the U.S. Israel is also the largest recipient of America's aid – it has received $158 billion in aid from the U.S. since the end of the Second World War. Currently, Israel gets $3.8 billion in military aid every year from the U.S., which accounts for about 16% of Israel's total military budget.

Exceptional allies: U.S. President Joe Biden, during a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on October 18. AP

The U.S. is also Israel's largest trading partner, with annual two-way trade hovering around $50 billion. Both Israel and the U.S. also have a deep defence partnership, which involves joint research and development and weapons production. For example, the Iron Dome, Israel's famed missile defence shield, uses parts built in the U.S. and the system is financed in part by the U.S. With U.S. help, Israel has built a highly advanced defence manufacturing base, which has made the country the world's 10th largest military exporter. Since 1972, the U.S. has used its veto power over 50 times to strike down resolutions critical of Israel in the UN Security Council.

From the 1973 Yom Kippur war onwards, the U.S. has also offered solid military support to Israel in its conflicts. In 1973, after Israel was taken aback by the surprise attack by Egypt and Syria, U.S. supplies proved vital for Israel to push back the enemy troops from the occupied Golan Heights and Sinai Peninsula. In 1982, the U.S. sent Multinational Forces to Lebanon after Israel's invasion of the country. After the first intifada, the U.S. supported the Oslo process and the two-state solution, but without compromising its relationship with Israel. Now, the running theme in Washington is that it supports "Israel's right to defend". The previous U.S. administration, of Donald Trump, recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moved America's embassy to the disputed city. The Trump administration also recognised Israel's annexation of Golan Heights, a Syrian territory it captured in 1967 and held under its occupation ever since.

Were there ever tensions between Israel and the U.S.?

While there were personality clashes between American Presidents and Israeli Prime Ministers, such clashes never led to a breakdown in what President John F. Kennedy called "the special relationship". In the 1970s, President Jimmy Carter heaped pressure on Israel to make peace with Egypt and give concessions to the Palestinians. Israel would finally agree to sign the Framework for Peace Agreement as part of the Camp David Accords, which would set the stage for the Oslo process. During the second intifada, President George W. Bush pressed Israel to show restraint in the occupied West Bank, and in return Prime Minister Ariel Sharon accused him of appeasing the Arabs. Israel 'will not be Czechoslovakia', Sharon said, indirectly drawing parallels between British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's surrender before Hitler in the 1938 Munich agreement and Mr. Bush. Sharon later apologised for the comparison. In 2002, Mr. Bush asked Israel to pull back from the West Bank and end a military operation "without delay", but the Israelis never obliged. Sharon had Bush "wrapped around his little finger', Brent Scowcroft, the former national security adviser, said in October 2004.

President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had also clashed over the Iran nuclear deal. Mr. Netanyahu had visited the Republican-controlled U.S. Congress and attacked Mr. Obama over his Iran policy. But the same Mr. Obama vetoed all resolutions at the UN Security Council critical of Israel except one during his eight-year term. Mr. Obama, during his last months in office, also cleared a $38 billion aid package for Israel. The Biden administration had earlier criticised the Netanyahu government's plan to overhaul the country's judiciary. But after the October 7 attack by Hamas, the U.S. has thrown its full weight behind the Netanyahu government's war on Gaza.

Why does the U.S. always back Israel?

One explanation is that Israel's strategic value in a volatile yet critical region makes it appealing for Washington. During the Cold War, the U.S. saw Israel as a powerful bulwark against possible Soviet expansion in the Arab world. After the Cold War, when the U.S. started becoming more and more involved in West Asia, it continued to see Israel as a force of stability, along with Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Strategic value explains a close partnership or alliance, like America's relationships with Japan, South Korea or Germany. A host of other factors, including America's public opinion, electoral politics and the powerful Israel lobby in the U.S., play a role in shaping the country's Israel policy.

Historically, Israel has enjoyed near unanimous support in the U.S. Congress, and a vast majority of Americans have favourable views about Israel. American Jews and evangelical Christians are two powerful, politically active groups in the U.S. They are important constituencies for both parties and they are both pro-Israel. Then there's a powerful Israel lobby in the U.S., which according to John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, heavily influences U.S. policy towards Israel. The lobby helps amplify pro-Israel voices, backs pro-Israel politicians and works toward playing down or neutralising voices critical of Israel, they argue in their 2006 essay "The Israel lobby", in *London Review of Books*.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a powerful pro-Israel lobbying group, hosts top leaders from both countries, including Presidents, Senators and Prime Ministers, for its annual gatherings. Pro-Israel groups also support both parties in the U.S. financially. For example, during the 2020 campaign, pro-Israel groups contributed over $30 billion (63% of which went to the Democrats and the rest Republicans), according to OpenSecrets.org. Besides, there are strong ties between the military industrial complexes of both countries. Therefore, all these factors together – Israel's strategic value, America's domestic politics, the presence of the pro-Israel lobby and military-industrial interplay, make sure that there's an institutional consensus in the U.S. about its relationship with Israel, irrespective of which party or President is in power in Washington D.C.

THE GIST

- The U.S. has vetoed a UN Security Council resolution that called for a humanitarian pause to Israel's attacks and voted against a resolution at the UN General Assembly calling for a humanitarian truce.
- In 1922 and 1944, the U.S. Congress passed resolutions endorsing the Balfour Declaration. The U.S. was the first country that recognised Israel in 1948. The recognition came in 11 minutes after the proclamation.
- The U.S. offers practically unconditional financial, military and political support for Israel, which has been occupying Palestinian territories since 1967.

INBRIEF

'Funds allocated to BJP MLAs transferred to Congress MLAs'

BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan has accused the Congress government of transferring developmental funds allocated to BJP MLAs in Bengaluru to Congress MLAs.

Dr. Ashwath Narayan told media persons in Bengaluru that a meeting of BJP city MLAs was held with veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa on Wednesday to discuss various issues related to "failures" of the Congress government regarding Bengaluru city development, including the withdrawal of funds allocated to BJP MLAs.

He alleged that in the last six months of Congress rule, Bengaluru was witnessing various problems, including that of lack of street lights, improper waste collection, potholes, and failure in maintenance of lakes and parks. He alleged that though the Congress government was speaking of Brand Bengaluru, in reality, it had remained only a statement as it had not backed such claims with sincere efforts and funds.

Implement Sadashiva panel recommendations: Committee

The Federation of Scheduled Castes for Social Justice, State Committee, has demanded implementation of the A.J. Sadashiva Commission's recommendations on internal reservation. At a protest led by its State general secretary Basavaraj Kowtal, the committee demanded that the issue be taken up in the next session of the legislature. The committee also demanded that a separate development corporation for Samagara Halaiah be set up and an Alemari commission be set up.

Surjewala warns strict action against leaders crossing party's 'Lakshman rekha'

Legislators, Ministers told to discuss organisational issues of Congress with the Chief Minister and the KPCC president and not in public

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the public image of the Congress government in Karnataka appears to be getting dented following controversial remarks by Ministers and legislators on the tenure of the Chief Minister and the Opposition BJP levelling allegations of corruption, AICC general secretaries Randeep Singh Surjewala and K.C. Venugopal huddled together with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday and told all leaders not to cross the 'Lakshman rekha' of the party.

AICC general secretaries K.C. Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala holding a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president and Dy.CM D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Briefing on the two-hour-long discussions on the party matters, Mr. Surjewala said "appropriate action" would be taken against leaders, MLAs, and Ministers if they make public statements on matters related to the party and the government. Mr. Surjewala said, "The MLAs should focus on giving advice about development related to their constituencies and districts and tweaking policies that will benefit the people of the State. Ministers should focus on their departments and their respective districts. Issues such as power-sharing should not be discussed in public." The leaders would be doing a disservice to the party if they violate the party discipline, he said.

Public statements

MLAs and Ministers have been issuing public statements related to the rotation of the post of the Chief Minister after 30 months. Loyalists of Mr. Siddaramaiah have stated that the Chief Minister's post was not vacant, and that the incumbent would continue for five years. Mr. Shivakumar's loyalists have been contending that the KPCC chief would become the Chief Minister after 30 months.

Mr. Surjewala told the leaders, "You discuss, give suggestions and opinions to the Chief Minister, the KPCC president or me and not in public."

Following uneasiness among the cadre and legislators over the delay in the appointment of heads to various boards and corporations, the four leaders held talks and decided to have more detailed discussions after the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh on November 17. Mr. Surjewala, who is in charge of the polls in M.P., said another four or five rounds of talks would be held on the appointments.

'Identify candidates'

With the party banking on four guarantees, Mr. Surjewala told Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar to identify suitable candidates for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Mr. Surjewala said, "Karnataka is at the centre point of the Congress party's strategy for the parliamentary elections. We believe that the Congress will get 20-plus Lok Sabha seats in the State. We hope to completely sweep the polls and raise the number to about 25-plus seats. The process of identifying parliamentary candidates must begin."

He told party leaders to select candidates after consultations with district- and Assembly-level leaders. Mr. Surjewala said he would start touring different parliamentary constituencies after the Assembly elections in five States conclude by the end of November.

On restructuring of the party organisation, he said, "This issue will be brought to the notice of the AICC president. Many of the incumbents are MLAs and Ministers. They will be relieved from organisational responsibility. We are thinking of giving the responsibility of the organisation to the youth and newcomers."

KEA to announce special stray vacancy round schedule today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The KEA will conduct counselling to fill 133 management quota medical seats. FILE PHOTO

With the Supreme Court's nod to Karnataka's plan to conduct a 'special stray vacancy round' to fill vacant MBBS seats, and the extension of the admission date till November 15 for undergraduate medical courses, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) will announce the schedule for the same on Thursday.

As many as 133 management quota medical seats have remained unfilled in Karnataka.

S. Ramya, Executive Director of the KEA, told *The Hindu*, "On the basis of the Supreme Court's order and the guidelines by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, we are planning to conduct the special stray vacancy round to fill vacant medical seats in the State and the counselling schedule will be announced on Thursday evening."

This year, 11,020 medical seats were allotted to Karnataka. The KEA completed four rounds of NEET counselling, including the mop-up round and the stray vacancy round, for the undergraduate medical seats and concluded the admission process on September 30, 2023. But 133 management quota medical seats remained unfilled after the stray vacancy round.

On the demand from medical seat aspirants and private medical college managements, the KEA approached the Supreme Court to conduct a special stray vacancy round to fill the remaining seats and sought directions to the Union government to extend the date of admission for undergraduate medical courses. *The Hindu* had reported this on October 29.

Last date

The Supreme Court agreed to this. According to the notice and the schedule of the Union Ministry of the Health and Family Welfare, Central counselling for the all-India quota seats, deemed/Central universities and institutes will be held up to November 7, and the State counselling will be held from November 7 to 10 through the KEA. November 15 is the last date for joining the college for those allotted seats in the Central and State counselling.

Caution deposit

According to the rules of the Union Ministry, all the registered candidates, irrespective of their category, are required to pay an additional refundable caution deposit (security deposit) of ₹50,000 for participation in the special stray vacancy round.

The caution deposit of the candidates who do not join their allotted seat in the special stray vacancy round will be forfeited and such candidates will be debarred from taking the NEET exam next year.

Despite the Union Ministry rules, the KEA is planning to get the total amount of the medical seat admission fee as caution deposit, whether it is ₹10 lakh or ₹40 lakh.

"Earlier, we fixed the caution deposit at ₹1 lakh for candidates who participated in the stray vacancy round. However, some candidates who opted for seats failed to report to the college, which resulted in the seats remaining vacant. To avoid incidents like this, we are planning to get the total amount of the medical seat admission fee as the caution deposit from candidates in the special stray vacancy round and it will be adjusted with their fee when they report to college. Then, only interested candidates will participate in this round," said Ms. Ramya.

Malpractices case: HC declines to discharge ex-registrar of RGUHS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has declined to quash the chargesheet filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against V.I. Hukkeri, the then registrar of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), in the case of illegality in conduct of entrance exam for the postgraduate medical courses by the university in 2006.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing the petition filed by 66-year-old Dr. Hukkeri. The petitioner had questioned the CBI special court's order of refusing to discharge him from the case.

The High Court held that sanction for his prosecution under Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was not required as he was retired from the service when the CBI special court took cognisance of offences against him.

On need of sanction under Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the High Court said this protection would be available while a public servant was acting or purporting to act in the discharge of his official duty and not otherwise. In case of Dr. Hukkeri, the High Court said the alleged acts of playing fraud on the university in connivance with the select students for leaking the question papers that were in his custody for a huge sum of money cannot be construed as part of discharge of official duties.

Meanwhile, the High Court discharged one Mekhala Dwarakanat B., who was arraigned as accused number six by the CBI in the case.

High Court quashes land acquisition for beautification of monuments at Hampi

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed the acquisition of around seven acres of land for beautification and infrastructure improvement near protected monuments of Ugra Narasimha and Badavilinga temples at Hampi.

The court held that the action of the State government in acquiring the land by dispensing with Section 5A of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, which mandates hearing of objections, by invoking the urgency provision under Section 17 of the Act, was tainted with *mala fides*, and hence, the acquisition was illegal.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum passed the order while allowing the petitions filed by Nidasheshi Veeranna and others back in 2007 questioning the acquisition of land in various survey numbers of Krishnapur and Kamalapur villages in Hosapete taluk. The petitions were referred back to the High Court for fresh consideration after the first round of litigation, in which the High Court had refused to interfere with the acquisition notifications of 2005-06.

The State government had issued notifications in 2005-06 for acquiring land near protected monuments of Ugra Narasimha and Badavilinga temples at Hampi. K. MURALI KUMAR

'No material'

"For invoking such jurisdiction, the authorities are required to adhere strictly to the requirements of the statute. In the present case on hand, there are absolutely no materials to substantiate the action of the State in invoking urgency clause," the court observed.

On examining the materials on record, the court said that "this court is more than satisfied that the power conferred on the government under Section 17 of the Act has not been validly exercised... The material placed by the State is not found to be satisfactory to justify their action under Section 17(4) of the Act."

What govt. said

While the Archaeology Department of the Union government had claimed that these parcels of land were required for verifying the existence of sculptures and carvings, and for beautification and infrastructure improvement around these monuments, the State government had said that the land was needed to provide proper access to the monuments as the parcels of land of the petitioners were blocking access.

The petitioners are entitled to be heard by filing their objection as the parcels of land are being acquired for the beautification of national monuments for which they cannot be acquired by invoking urgency clause, the court said.

Canara Bank initiative

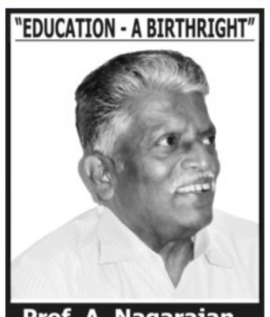
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Canara Bank is observing Vigilance Awareness Week from October 30 to November 6. At the inaugural function, an integrity pledge was administered to the employees by MD and CEO of the bank K. Satyanarayana Raju, according to a statement.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

"EDUCATION - A BIRTHRIGHT"



Prof. A. Nagarajan.,
B.Sc., D.M.I.T., M.Sc (Engg)., PGDM (IIMA)

Family, Friends & M.I.T Fraternity

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in, Mobile No. 96461-55525

E-Tender Enq. No. 502/P-3/EMP-W-12475 dated 30.10.23
Dy. Chief Engineer / Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2023_POWER_111830_1 for the Cleaning of condenser tubes by using bullet shot technique for 210 MW 'KWU' design Unit no. 4, 5&6 at GGSSTP, Roopnagar.
For Detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from dtd. 31.10.23/ 05:00 PM onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP - 131/23 **76155/12/2354/2023/29437**

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF TAMIL NADU
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Raja Muthiah Road, Periamet, Chennai – 3
Phone: +91 44 2561 1522 | e-mail: sdat@tn.gov.in GST No : 33AAALS0325C2ZN
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
e-Tender No. 7038/SE1/2023, Date: 01.11.2023
Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, Chennai invites online Bids under two cover system for the following works:

Name of the Work	**Request for Proposal (RFP) for Engagement of Event Management Agency for the Ceremonies of Khelo India Youth Games 2023, Tamil Nadu**
Pre-bid Meeting on	**06.11.2023** at **12.00 Noon** in the **Conference Hall of SDAT Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Raja Muthiah Road, Periyamet, Chennai – 600003**
Last date for submission of online tender	**14.11.2023 @ 12.00 Noon**
Earnest Money Deposit	**Rs.17,00,000/-**
Date of opening of technical bids	**15.11.2023 @ 01.00 P.M**

Tenders available all further information/notices shall be published online in the e-procurement portal **https://tntenders.gov.in**.
DIPR/5857/Tender/2023
(Sd-) J. Meghanatha Reddy, I.A.S., Member Secretary, SDAT.

MANONMANIAM SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY
(Reaccredited with "A" Grade by NAAC)
ABISHEKAPATTI, TIRUNELVELI - 627 012, TAMIL NADU
Phone: (O) 0462-2338632, Fax: 0462-2334363
E-TENDER NOTICE
Tender for implementation of automated examination processes through an Enterprise solution and supply of examination related stationary items in respect of examination works of University on Build, Operate, and Transfer of electronically editable data (BOT) basis for a period of THREE years (Six Semesters). Tender Documents can be downloaded from **www.tntenders.gov.in** from **04.11.2023 and last date & time for submission 04.12.2023 at 11.00 AM.**
DIPR / 5841 / TENDER /2023 **REGISTRAR**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
DEO IRRIGATION PROJECT, KARANJIA, AT/PO-KARANJIA, DIST-MAYURBHANJ-757037.
Tel:06796-296144, e-mail:cce.dip.dowr@gmail.com
"e" Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No.04/CCEDIP of 2023-24

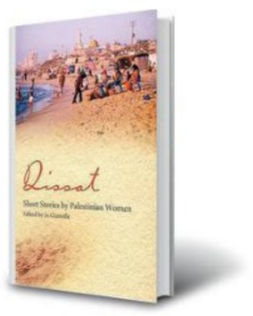
Name of Work	: As per Detailed Tender Call Notice
Total No. of Packages	: **04 (Four) Nos.** of Individual work
Estimated cost of Package	: **From 102.48 Lakhs to 296.11 Lakhs**
Period of Completion	: **06 (Six) to 09 (Nine) months**
Class of Contractor	: **"B" & "A" Class**
Other Details	:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for biding From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia	04/CCEDIP of 2023-24 (on-line)	**07.11.2023 at 10.00 AM**	**23.11.2023 up to 05.00 PM**

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** .
Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website.
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia
A-738 : OIPR-32337/11/0008/2324

Government of Odisha
Sports & Youth Services Department
Kalinga Stadium Sports Complex, Bhubaneswar
No. SYS-INFRA-MISC-0022-2022/27408/SYS, Bhubaneswar, Dated:01/11/2023
Request for Proposal
Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha invites bids from reputed agencies to the RfP for **"Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Gym Equipment for Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha"**. The details of the document are available at the below mentioned website.
Website : **https://tendersodisha.gov.in & https://sports.odisha.gov.in**
Interested firms/ parties/ agencies are advised to study the RfP document carefully before submitting their bid.
Important Dates and Information :
Date of Publication of Bid: 02.11.2023
Last date and time for submission of Pre-bid queries : 08.11.2023, 05:00 PM
Pre-bid Meeting : 09.11.2023, 11:00 AM
Last date and time for submission of Bid : 23.11.2023, 05:00 PM
Opening of the Technical Bid : 23.11.2023, 05:30 PM.
Sd/-
Commissioner-cum-Secretary
TT OIPR-29001/11/0073/2324

BIBLIOGRAPHY



In search of home: Palestinians search for casualties, a day after the Israeli strikes on the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, on November 1. REUTERS

Palestinian writers and their encounters with life under occupation

In a truncated land where there is repeated violence, writers face up to the conflict by documenting experiences of dispossession, exile and restriction. After decades of failure in peacemaking efforts, they also wonder what it will take for the strife to end

Sudipta Datta

A woman in Ramallah becomes fascinated with a "minor detail" of history, years after the event, in Palestinian writer Adania Shibli's eponymous novel, translated into English by Elisabeth Jaquette. It was longlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2021 and won Germany's 2023 LiBeraturpreis, a prize that honours women writers from Africa, Asia, Latin America or the Arab world. She was supposed to have been felicitated by the Frankfurt Book Fair on October 20, but as a fallout of the Hamas-Israel flare-up, the organisers "postponed" the ceremony without consulting her. Shibli said she would have reflected on the role of literature in "these cruel and painful times"; and hundreds of writers and publishers wrote to the event organisers, saying this was a time to champion literary voices of all cultures, not shut them out.

Minor Detail (Fitzcarraldo Editions) is based on a true story of an incident that happened in 1949, a year after the war that Palestinians call the Nakba, which led to over seven lakh people being displaced, and which Israelis celebrate as the War of Independence. Israeli soldiers captured, raped and killed a Palestinian Bedouin woman, and buried her in the sand. In Shibli's novel, this story makes up the first part, and the incident is narrated in chilling detail by an Israeli officer. The second part is the story of the woman from Ramallah who has become obsessed with this atrocity – the girl was murdered on the same date as her birthday, another 'minor detail' – and wants to find out more about it, going through difficulties as she tries to unearth information. The unnamed narrator has trouble sleeping and is overcome by anxiety when she hears a howling dog.

Many anxieties

There are other anxieties, not least the "borders imposed between things" and the claustrophobic present she must be mindful of. People in Area A cannot go up to Area B or Area C and vice-versa without the right ID card. She will venture on a risky trip down south to the Negev desert in search of her story, after borrowing an identity card from a colleague who is allowed beyond the set boundaries. During her journey, she will pore over two maps – one an Israeli map showing new names and places post settlement; another, an old Palestinian map showing how things used to be. When there's a process of erasure going on, when whole neighbourhoods have vanished, how do you get to the truths of the past?

Nathan Thrall's *The Only Language They Understand: Forcing Compromise in Israel and Palestine* (2017/Pan Macmillan) provides a backdrop and context to this long-contested territory, lying between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, and why efforts at peacemaking have been repeatedly thwarted. "Talk is pointless," he writes, "because the enemy will be persuaded only by force," and chillingly ponders: "What remains to be seen is how much more of it Israelis and Palestinians will have to endure before bringing their conflict to an end."

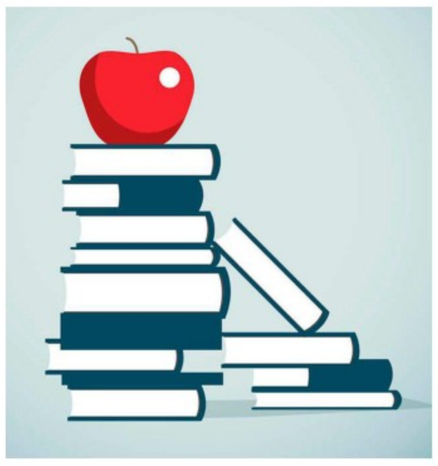
What is literature's place in such a conflict? Some like Walid Khalidi have painstakingly documented Israeli erasure (*All That Remains: The Palestinian Villages Occupied and Depopulated by Israel* in 1948, published in 1992 by the Institute for Palestine Studies), and others have chronicled what it feels to be Palestinian.

Women Unlimited published an anthology, *Seeking Palestine: New Palestinian Writing on Exile and Home*, in 2013 in which there are many encounters between memory and imagination, the experience of dispossession and life under occupation. Edited by Penny Johnson and Raja Shehadeh, the writers, working outside the archives, asks questions: How do Palestinians live, imagine and think about home and exile decades "after the dismemberment of historic Palestine and in the complicated present tense of a truncated and transitory Palestine?" The writers, says Penny Johnson in the Introduction, avoid the obvious trap of nostalgic memory "and are aware that memory-as-reclamation is a vexed project: as the novelist Mischa Hiller points out, when the exiled 'remember' Palestine, whether experienced or imagined, their memories might seem quite alien (and alienating) to the Palestinians who live there now."

Susan Abulhawa, who moved to the U.S., had lived in 21 different homes before she was 16, only two of which were with either of her parents. In her essay, she writes that hers has been an un-Palestinian life – "Yet I have come to understand that it represents the most basic truth about what it means to be Palestinian – dispossessed, disinherited and exiled; and what it ultimately means to resist. The truth is this: To be alone, without papers, without a family or a clan, a land or a country means that one must live at the mercy of others."

Fragmentary existence

With life being uncertain and fragmentary, it is not a surprise, says Jo Glanville, who edited *Qissat: Short Stories by Palestinian Women*, that the short story form "is the more appealing form of literary expression." She mentions the novelist Liana Badr who returned home after the 1994 Oslo Accords – which fell apart after the second intifada in 2000 – to find that the atmosphere was not conducive to writing novels. The memoir and "confessional, autobiographical" literature is another preferred form, and there have been several including Mourid Barghouti's *I Saw Ramallah* (Anchor Books), Raja Shehadeh's *Palestinian Walks: Notes on a Vanishing Landscape* (Hachette), Hussein Barghouthi's *Among the Almond Trees* (Seagull Books). In his foreword to *I Saw Ramallah*, Edward Said wrote: "...there is a good deal of politics in Barghouti's book, but none of it is either abstract or ideologically driven: whatever comes up about politics arises from the lived circumstances of Palestinian life, which, most often, is surrounded by restrictions..." With Gaza now bearing the brunt of a relentless attack by Israel following the Hamas onslaught on Israel in early October, Shehadeh wondering if there will be a time when "Palestine/Israel [will] come to mean nothing more to their people than home" is more poignant than ever.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mr. G. Ramesh, Ring King Pong Road, Kalimpong, Darjeeling, says that in northern India medical shops display the signboard 'Chemists and Druggists'. He wants to know whether there is any difference between a chemist and a druggist."

" 'Chemist' and 'druggist' mean the same. 'Chemist' is British and 'druggist' is American. A chemist or druggist is 'a person who prepares and sells medicines'. In England also you will find the signboard 'Chemists and Druggists'. I don't know whether there is any subtle difference between the two words. I'd like to hear from knowledgeable readers."

"Sir, Ms. K. L. Sucharitra, GBHSS, Karimangalam, wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'neck and crop'.

" 'Neck and crop' means 'completely'.

I bundled him out neck and crop.

He was bowled neck and crop.

We are going in neck and crop for fashion."

"Sir, Mr. R. Srinivasa Rao, 5th Circular Road, Jawahar Nagar, Madras, wants to know whether 'put your best foot forward' is acceptable as human beings have only two legs."

"It is grammatically wrong but idiomatically correct. 'To put the best foot forward' means 'to go at full pace', 'exert all one's efforts'.

"Sir, Mr. Amar Chand Choraria, Pillappa Lane, Bangalore, wants to know why we say that a chicken is dressed when it is really undressed as we remove its feathers, etc."

" 'Dress' has several meanings. One of them is 'to prepare (food) for cooking or eating'. When you dress a chicken, you clean it for cooking. 'To dress a salad' is to add oil, vinegar, etc. to make it tasty. There is a point in what Mr. Choraria says. But language is not logic."

"Sir, Prof. K. R. S. Sarma, 41/409, Main Road, Kothapeta, Kurnool, says that Jawaharlal Nehru began his first Independence Day Speech with 'Long years ago...' He says that it should be 'Long, long ago' or 'Many years go.'"

"I agree with Prof. Sarma. It could be a slip, or, could it be that Nehru wanted to convey through 'long years ago' that each year appeared longer than usual because of the sufferings undergone by freedom fighters? I'd like to hear readers' views on the expression."

"Sir, Mr. C. V. Veeraraghavan, Jawahar nagar, Jaipur, wants to know the origin of the expression, 'The Night of the Long Knives'."

"It is a descriptive phrase applied to the night of June 30, 1934 when Hitler, assisted by Goering and Himmler's Gestapo, secured the murder of the Brown Shirts and some Catholic leaders. The shootings (mainly at Munich and Berlin) actually began on the Friday night of the 29th and continued through Sunday. The estimates of those killed varied between 60 and 400..." (Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable).

Published in The Hindu on November 14, 1989.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Matthew Perry, best known for playing the role of Chandler Bing in *Friends*, died on Saturday at the age of 54. A quiz on Perry and his much-loved character Chandler

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1
Perry was among the last of the six main actors cast in the show. Which of the characters was cast first? This character was written keeping this actor in mind.

QUESTION 2
After an accident with a knife during Season 5, what impairment did Chandler have?

QUESTION 3
What is the name of Perry's book, which is based on his life?

QUESTION 4
Every week, in the show, a TV guide comes to Chandler and Joey's apartment. What name appears on the address?

QUESTION 5
What is Chandler's job for the first few seasons?

QUESTION 6
The *Friends* theme song is "I'll be there for you." Which band wrote this song?

QUESTION 7
What did Chandler's mother, Nora, do for a living?

Visual question:
In this episode, Chandler wants to break up with Janice and "move to" another country. Which country is this?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In *Titanic*, on which research vessel were the scenes of the film were shot. **Ans: Akademik Mstislav Keldysh**
2. The full form of RMS. **Ans: Royal Mail Ship**
3. This was a 1992 documentary film about the shipwreck. **Ans: *Titanica***
4. This shipbuilding and fabrication company built the Titanic. **Ans: Harland & Wolff**
5. This jewellery manufacturer made the 'Heart Of The Ocean' necklace for *Titanic*. **Ans: Asprey & Garrard Limited**
6. The *Titanic* was the highest-grossing film of all time for these many years and was finally surpassed by this film. **Ans: 12 years; *Avatar* which was also written and directed by James Cameron**
7. The film was re-released in a 3D version in 2012, with a change in the night-sky star pattern. This astrophysicist prompted this change. **Ans: Neil deGrasse Tyson**
8. Identify this woman and the American actor who portrayed her in the film. **Ans: Margaret Brown; Kathy Bates**
Early Birds: Kriti Choudhary| Imdadul Hossain Mallick

Word of the day

Avaricious:
immoderately desirous of acquiring wealth

Synonyms: grabby, grasping, greedy, covetous

Usage: *Those people from across the street are avaricious and will do anything for money.*

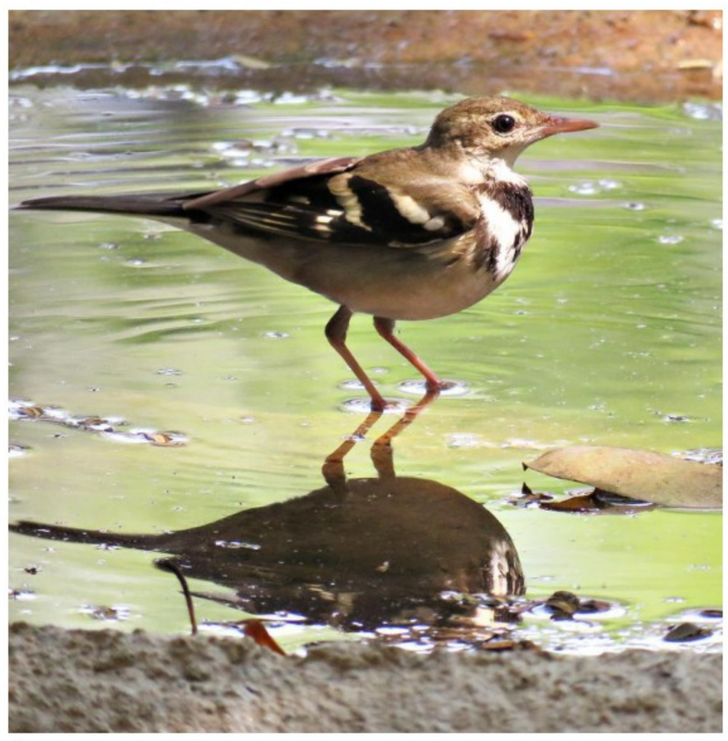
Pronunciation: bit.ly/avariciouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌævəˈrɪʃəs/

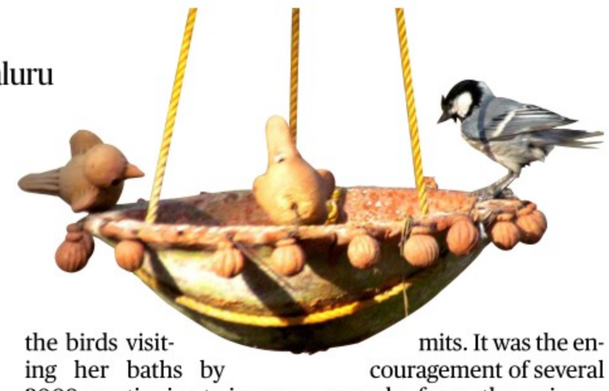
For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Journey of documenting delightful birds

Shubha Bhat's book *Pakshi Jala* documents the relationship between birds and water, with a focus on the Indian Institute of Science campus in Bengaluru



Avian beauties: Some of the birds spotted on the Indian Institute of Science campus in Bengaluru. SHUBHA BHAT



Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Shubha Bhat will never forget the rare Kashmir flycatcher she spotted in her garden ten years ago: October 2013, to be precise. It was noon, remembers Shubha, who was cooking in her kitchen when she saw numerous birds descend onto the bird baths in her garden. "So, I left that and started clicking videos and pictures," she says.

Then she noticed the flycatcher, one among many other birds in the garden, cooling himself off. She had seen two species of flycatchers – the red-breasted and Taiga flycatcher – all with the vibrant vermillion, white and grey colouring distinctive to males of the species. "But this looked different because he was opening its tail like a fan," says Shubha, who remembers being so busy observing the bird that she let the doorbell ring unanswered.

She took a video of the bird and sent it to the well-known ornithologist, Dr. S. Subramanya, popularly known as Subbu in birding circles, a friend and mentor. "He told me that it was the Kashmir flycatcher," she says, adding that the little bird, which lives and breeds in the northwest Himalayas, migrates down south in winter, with sightings mainly in Kerala and Sri Lanka. "It must have come as a passage migrant," says Shubha, who had never seen the bird before or since. "It was the first sighting in Karnataka."

Shubha Bhat, author of Pakshi Jala

Connecting birds and water

Not surprisingly, a photograph of this vivid little bird has made its way into Shubha's book titled *Pakshi Jala*, which, as the name suggests, documents the relationship between birds and water, specifically on the Indian Institute of Science campus. "I am always wandering around campus, watching everything from plants and leaves to insects and birds," she admits with a laugh.

The book, an IISc Press production, not only lists the history and birding hotspots on the campus but also lists the 202 birds spotted on the campus and chronicles Shubha's birdbath initiative, which led to her observing and photographing almost all of these birds. The pictures of the birds, with some behavioural and call details and the stories behind all these photographs, form the bulk of this book. "It became clear to me that I should highlight the connection between bird and water, and this book has a special focus on that connection," she writes in the preface of this 350-odd-page book.

According to her, the word *Jala* has many meanings, depending on the language and how it is pronounced. It could mean water, web, or even magic, all of which was connected to what had been unfurling in her backyard. Once she started keeping water, she discovered an entire ecosystem in her garden, with bees, insects, squirrels, cats, dogs, and, of course, birds veering towards this precious liquid. "Water connects everything," she says.

Natural world

Shubha grew up in the remote village of Mala, located in the Karkala taluk of Karnataka's Udipi, very close to the Kudremukh ghat. She remembers it to be an idyllic, if somewhat isolated, existence; until the Kudremukh mines were established in 1976, there were barely any roads and no electricity, she says. "But we never had any complaint because we enjoyed our lives a lot."

During those early years, much of her life was spent outdoors, whether it was through the classes conducted outdoors at school or the chores at home and in the fields. "We would go to the forest, do all sorts of jobs, and wander there for hours," says Shubha, who would often spend time with the people who helped with the harvesting in her village. "They had a very good knowledge about everything in the forest – the trees, insects, snakes and birds," she says.

It was there that her lifelong obsession with nature was forged, something she carried with her even after she married and moved out of her hometown, travelling with her husband, IISc professor Navakanta Bhat, to Austin, Texas, and later back to Bengaluru.

"We were outside campus for 1.5 to 2 years," she remembers, with a shudder, a time spent in the city's concrete jungle, cut off from her beloved natural world. "I managed by watching National Geographic and Discovery," she confesses. In 2001 or so, she moved to the densely wooded IISc campus, a move that she heartily welcomed. She spent the next two-odd decades roaming across every corner of the campus, observing everything alive in it, a practice she continues to this day. "I am happy just going around campus and watching birds," she says.

Beginning of bird bath

In 2008, Shubha moved from a small community residence to a larger house with a small garden. That was when she thought of placing birdbaths in this space; she felt bad for the fauna on campus that did not have access to taps and streams, she says.

"I took a vessel which I have bought for my cooking, and I start keeping it," she says. The birds slowly began trickling in – first crows and mynahs, then other large birds like doves. "But the little ones weren't coming," remembers Shubha, who then added a plate filled with water to her garden, which brought in the bulbuls and the tits. "I learnt what would work and not work by observing from my kitchen window," she says.

She began documenting the birds visiting her baths by 2009, continuing to improvise and expand her setup. Over time, she added more baths, including large cement and hanging ones, placed a twig in the middle of some of them for smaller birds to perch onto and introduced fish like mollies, koi, guppies and goldfish into the larger water receptacles to prevent mosquito infestation.

"I have videos of kingfishers diving into the pond to catch fish," says Shubha, who would photograph or take videos of the various birds and send them to various ornithologists for identification. She also referred to books like Salim Ali's *The Book of Indian Birds* and *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* by Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp & Tim Inskipp. "It is still calls and books for me," she says, adding that though she has tried using the bird identifying app, Merlin, she prefers these old-fashioned identification methods.

Putting it all together

A sudden, raucous screech interrupts the early evening calm, followed by another and yet one more in quick succession. "Rose-ringed parakeets. They are going back to a tree in Orion Mall. They roost there," she says, without hesitation, having learnt to identify many birds by their calls over the years; she is currently helping with a bird call project at IISc's Centre for Ecological Sciences.

While she genuinely enjoyed observing and documenting all these birds, she had no plans to write a book, she admits. It was the encouragement of several people from the science fraternity, including Dr Subbu, Shyamal, Ramit Singal, Mike Prince, and Prof. D.D. Sharma, among others, that drove her to do so. "I was not convinced because I felt that I had no knowledge about birds," says Shubha, who is entirely self-taught. "But many started insisting that I do it," she says.

It took her over five years to put together this book, which was released on August 30 this year. "The narration in this book strives to bring out the innumerable possibilities and improvisations around birdbaths," she writes in the preface of this book, pointing out that her own 200 sq.ft. home garden itself had managed to host over 60 birds. "A small pot of water in a home garden, or even in balconies of buildings, goes a long way to quench the thirst of several birds. If there is one objective I have in mind for this book, it is to convince every reader of this book to set up a birdbath in their homes and workplaces."

Pakshi Jala and other books published by IISc Press can be purchased at the Office of Communications or at the Campus Book Store (formerly Tata Book House) at IISc. You can also purchase it online by emailing office.ooc@iisc.ac.in

Agreement inked to address AMR challenges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) has announced a next-generation tripartite Indo-European collaboration to address the challenges posed by Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), with science, innovation, policy, and stewardship.

According to C-CAMP, antibiotics such as penicillin are pillars of modern medicine that have enabled decades of healthcare advances.

However indiscriminate use of antibiotics over time in food systems, agriculture, and health have now brought us to a situation where vulnerable populations particularly neonates, elderly, and immunocompromised are greatly exposed to life-threatening, intractable infections. A UN report projects an annual loss of nearly 10 million lives globally by 2050 due to AMR.

To tackle this very serious problem, global bodies including the WHO, the G7 Health deliberation, and the G20 countries in the 2023 meeting in New Delhi have pushed for the One Health approach.

"This tripartite agreement welcomes a new entrant, Swissnex in India, the Swiss science and technology consulate part of a Swiss global network connecting Switzerland and the world in education, research, and innovation, as part of the WAAH! Accelerator which was originally signed between the Dutch Embassy and C-CAMP in December 2022," C-CAMP said. The WAAH! Accelerator is working towards emphasizing co-creation and co-development of new technologies in the water, agriculture, animal, and human health towards fulfilling the One Health approach to address AMR.

This Accelerator was set up as a C-CAMP partnership with NADP (Netherlands Antibiotic Development Platform) and AMR Global, both Netherlands-based organizations.

"With Swissnex in India joining this programme, this agreement will not only encourage path-breaking science but also prioritise faster impact on-field nationally and globally," C-CAMP said.

Lakshman K.P. wins Shankar Nag Award at Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival

He has created work as a writer, musician, actor, and director, thereby displaying an exceptional ability to be dexterous and ambitious in his craft

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

This year's Shankar Nag Award was given to theatre person Lakshman K.P. on Wednesday at the Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival 2023 - *Narratives & Narratives*.

Lakshman is known to have created a rich and important oeuvre of theatre work over the last decade. Since graduating from Ninasam, Heggodu, he has gone on to train at the Intercultural Theatre Institute in Singapore and lived up to the high standards of both institutions.

He has created work as a writer, musician, actor, and director, thereby displaying an exceptional ability to be dexterous and ambitious in his craft. His theatre is deeply rooted in the cultural and social world of his practice and at the same time speaks clearly and powerfully to the world at large.

The award comes as another feather in his cap, as Lakshman's recent play *Dakla Katha Devi Kavya* also earned laurels at the META Awards 2023.

Lakshman K.P.

'Happy and humbled'

"I am very happy, humbled and thankful to Ranga Shankara for honouring me with this award. Just as special as it makes me feel, it is equally scary because feeling special is not a privilege in India. As much as this award means to me, I do not want the award to let me forget about the whole ecosystem around me. There have been theatre teams, institutions, audience, my schooling and my family that have all contributed to the award that I have received today, and they will continue to be my backbone," he said.

When asked how the young director has seen success in the theatre world, Lakshman says, "I do not know how success is measured, but I agree that my work has been recognised. I am an actor, and I train actors. However, due to certain circumstances, I forced myself to get into direction, and I stand here today. I enjoy working with actors, and the fact that I consider acting an important form of craft is one of the many reasons actors in my plays are also being recognised. The curiosity I have on learning more about the craft of acting and how the process of my work with actors has evolved over the years could be the reason behind my work being recognised."

Instituted on November 9, 2014, to commemorate late Kannada theatre and filmmaker Shankar Nag's 60th birthday, The Shankar Nag Award is presented to a young theatremaker for service to theatre.

Over the years, the award has been given to prominent young theatre makers of the country like Abhishek Majumdar, Mohit Takalkar, Quasar Thakore Padamsee, Anurupa Roy, Toral Shah, Sankar Venkateswaran, Neel Chaudhuri, Vivek Madan, Nimmy Raphel and Sharanya Ramprakash.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 2, 1973

Devaraj Urs' assurance to integrated areas

BANGALORE, Nov. 1: The Chief Minister Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, to-day assured the people of the State that the Government would treat equally the people of the different integrated areas of Karnataka and would function with efficiency and honesty.

The Chief Minister who was distributing State awards and teachers awards to 33 prominent persons (three of them in absentia) under the auspices of the Rajyotsava Samithi at the Vidhana Soudha, said the renaming of the State symbolised the determination and the faith of the three crore Kannadigas that it would promote emotional integration among the Kannadigas of the different integrated areas of the State such as Old Mysore, Bombay-Karnataka, Hyderabad Karnataka and Madras Karnataka.

He stressed that emotional integration should develop along with the change in the name of the State and the people should no longer think in terms of the areas from which they came from internal differences would have to be eliminated.

Mr. Urs said likewise the people would expect the Government to treat all alike, irrespective of political considerations. He assured them that the Government would do so.

Mrs. K.S. Nagarathnamma, Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly, who presided released a few publications brought out by the State Information Department. She said the renaming of the State had caused some pain to the people of Old Mysore, but it was inevitable just as some areas got submerged under big projects. She exhorted the people of Old Mysore to show a spirit of accommodation and undertaking in the larger interest of all Kannadigas.

Upcoming thematic concert Udaan - Flights of Fancy will explore bhajans, classical kritis and folk compositions centered around birds

Birdsong and bhajans

Ranjani Govind

Starlings were common native birds, so why did Mozart choose this bird as a pet from a Viennese shop in 1784? Legend has it that this bird, which greatly influenced his work, sang a near-version of the theme from Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 17 in G major, drawing his attention.

While beautiful mornings are incomplete without birdsong, musical compositions inspired by birds are the next best thing.

A multitude of composers in all genres of Indian and Western music have attempted to capture the ensemble of pitches, notes and tunes that come so naturally to these winged musicians.

"Composers in every genre of music have referred to birds or interpreted birdsong for as long as they have been writing music. Indian composers and poets through the ages have used birds as a reference symbolic to situations or used them as an alliteration or metaphor to strengthen their expressions," says Chitra Srikrishna, who will steer her concert *Udaan – Flights of Fancy*, by exploring these themes in bhajans, classical and folk compositions in Bengali, Kannada, Hindi, Marathi, Sanskrit, Tamil and Telugu.

The program will run for 90 minutes with a simultaneous slideshow where Chitra will be the narrator and singer accompanied by Vaibhav Ramani on violin and Phanindra Bhaskara on percussion, at the Bangalore International Center (BIC).

Singer Chitra Srikrishna, a writer and adjunct professor of music at Ahmedabad University has trained under stalwarts such as Seethalakshmi Venkatesan, V Subrahmanian, OS Thyagarajan and Lalgudi Rajalakshmi.

As a musician and educator, her focus is on making Indian music accessible to a wider audience through workshops and thematic productions.

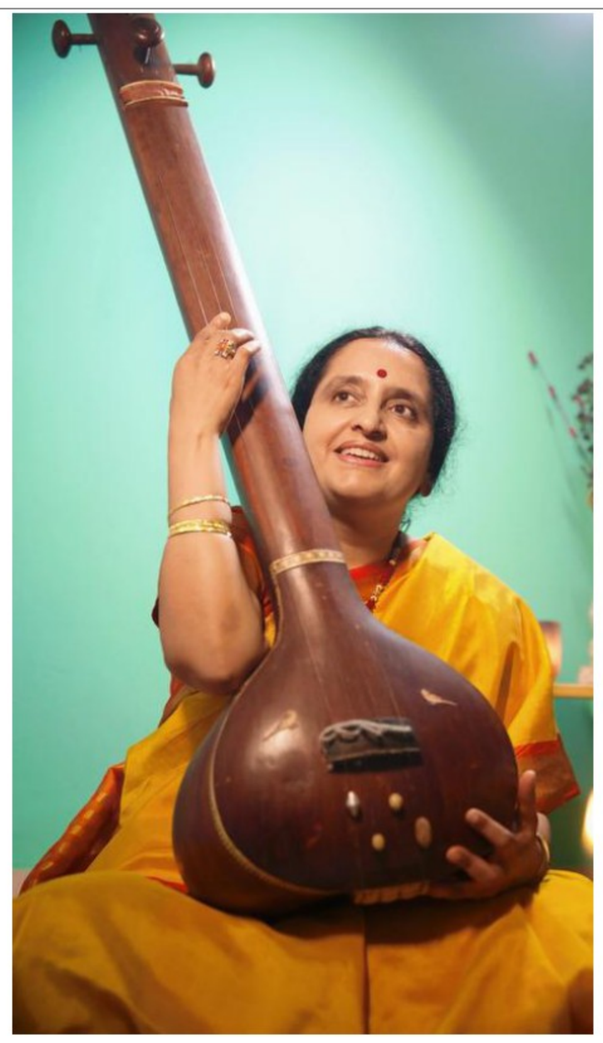
Many of Chitra's friends are bird lovers and they often shared stories or pictures about the birds they spotted.

"It was during the pandemic, when we were confined indoors that I started paying attention to the sounds of birds and how musical they were. Around that time I was learning and setting vernacular poems to music, and it dawned on me how often birds were used as literary devices by poets."

Udaan, Chitra says, is a musical exploration on the use of birds as literary devices in Indian poetry. From the common crow to the partridge, lyricists across India have used birds to flatter, inspire and woo.

Poets and composers use birds in a variety of ways in their works, says Chitra.

"Some literally, as Valmiki does in his verse beginning 'Maa Nishada' about the death of a crane; others metaphorically, as Andal does when she addresses her friend as a young parrot. They can also be used as similes – Jayadeva in his Ashtapadi speaking as Krishna, "craves for the nectar of Radha's kiss like a *chakora* bird".



On a wing and verse Chitra Srikrishna, birds found in Indian poetry. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sometimes the same bird used in different contexts by poets, says Chitra.

"The swan is used as a messenger of love in the Sanskrit poetry written by Vedanta Desika, while Bhakti poet, Kabir, uses it as a metaphor for the human spirit in his *dohe*. Annamacharya while singing of Vishnu uses personification and imagery to describe him as Garuda, a white-necked sea eagle."

The symbolic use of birds for specific emotions such as being lovesick (chakora) or to express devotion (garuda) is most evident in the mythological storytelling of Jayadeva or Annamacharya's work, says Chitra.

> Songs reflect the beauty of nature, highlight social issues, and are markers of festive occasions and major life events.
>
> **CHITRA SRIKRISHNA**
> Musician

"Devotional verses by poets such as Andal or Allama Prabhu use birds as metaphors (young parrot) or in symbolic representation (mango tree and the koel)."

While curating a thematic music programme there needs to be a balance of melody *(raga)* and rhythm *(tala)*, while keeping in mind the continuity of the theme, says Chitra.

This means balancing the choice of birds – from the common crow to the mythical *chakora*, with the literary manner of their use and the language of the composition, whilst ensuring harmony with the raga and tala choices.

"Several rounds of improvisation had to be brought in to bring us here," she says.

The programme is in the Carnatic idiom – presenting varied poetic works set to music in different languages, elaborates Chitra.

"There will be brief forays into the *manodharma* element of a Carnatic concert *(raga alapane, thani avartana)*. The violinist will present background music to create moods with bird sound. The music is interspersed with short narration, accompanied by visuals to provide the audience with context and a thread of continuity.

Driven by her quest to make Carnatic music accessible to a wider audience, Chitra says thematic concerts require delving into the thought process of the composers, setting verses to music, and connecting the dots in a way that provides a fresh perspective.

"To me music is much more than a performance art form, it is an education. Songs reflect the beauty of nature, highlight social issues, and are markers of festive occasions and major life events."

Udaan - Flights of Fancy by Chitra Srikrishna will be performed at Bangalore International Center from November 6, 7pm onwards

CITYBEATS

Lilting lyrics

Catherine Jagoe is an English poet, translator and essayist based in the United States. She will be reading from her poetry about immigrant life as one loses and remakes their home, and the interconnection of the human and natural worlds. She will also play some of her lyrical prose radio pieces about Wisconsin. Audience interaction at the event is invited.

On November 2 at Atta Galatta, from 6-7.30pm

Go with gold

Conçu, the patisserie and cafe, is partnering with Art Glow to conduct a textured gold leaf painting workshop. Participants will learn how to utilise a range of tools and will be guided by artist Shruti Jain. The class costs ₹1850 and is open to all. No prior art experience is required.

On November 3 at Concu, Indiranagar from 6.30-9pm. Call 9738643549 to register.

Marking a milestone

Salome, an electro, techno DJ and producer from Berlin, will be performing at SOCIAL Koramangala to celebrate six years of Milkman. Salome's DJ sets are poised and fresh and her line-up will include Ezkape, Kandi Kuri, Skye & XS. Salome's music currently appears on Mechatronica and other platforms.

On November 5 at SOCIAL Koramangala, from 8pm. Call 9152010479 for details

Healing for body and mind

Preeti Zachariah

"A strong back gives you confidence," says Robin Simmons, talking about the inherent benefits of learning the Alexander Technique, "a mental discipline that teaches individuals how to let go of tension in the body and how to enable the body to move with ease and minimal effort," as the Harvard Health Publishing website puts it.

Switzerland-based Robin, who is here in the city to conduct workshops on this technique, with his wife, Béatrice, has been teaching the technique since 1971. "I was introduced to it by a choreographer," says Robin, who comes from an acting background. It made him feel dynamic and so much calmer, he remembers. "That is why I wanted to pursue it."

His wife, Béatrice, on the other hand, got into it following a whiplash injury. "In a very short time, I was much better," says Beatrice, who has been teaching the Alexander Technique and has led healing sessions based on Animist Tradition for over 35 years.

The duo, who will be offering group and individual workshops in Shoonya for the month of November, say that the technique has been around for nearly a century. Founded by Fredrick Matthias Alexander, an Australian-born actor and teacher, the technique helps people with their coordination, breathing and stress management. And yes, it is especially helpful for people struggling with pain.

"There is a medical aspect to the technique, but it is not therapy in a direct way," says Robin, who thinks of it as more than therapy since once you teach a person the technique, they will be able to help themselves.

This could benefit dancers who often struggle with injuries, though musicians and horse riders are also likely to see immediate feedback as well, believes Robin. "It really is for anyone," says Robin, who has even taught the Alexander Technique to children. "It is about employing your body in an optimal way."

Robin and Béatrice Simmons will hold a series of workshops on the Alexander Technique in Shoonya all through October and November. To know more, email alexandertechniquebangalore@gmail.com

Healing touch Robin Simmons offers a private class. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Priyadarshini Dhanaraj

The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in Bengaluru will present an in-house curated exhibition of the Haripura Panels by artist Nandalal Bose from November 3.

Nandalal Bose was a pioneer of modern Indian art who trained generations of artists; he was the first principal of Santiniketan's fine-arts college, Kala Bhavana established in 1919 by Rabindranath Tagore.

Titled, Haripura Panels - Nandalal Bose (1882-1966), the exhibition has handpicked selections from over 6,800 works of art by Nandalal Bose which are a part of NGMA's repository, which include paintings, graphic prints, drawings and sketches.

Among the vast body of work Nandalal created, the Haripura Panels have long stood out in a class of their own. Nandalal has been known for his use of tempera in creating these panels.

Tempera, also known as egg tempera, is a permanent, fast-drying painting medium comprising pigments mixed with a water-soluble binder medium. Glutinous material such as egg yolk are commonly used in this practice.

In 1938, Mahatma Gandhi invited Nandalal to create an entire township for the Congress session in Haripura, Gujarat. Gandhiji wanted the venue and the township to be built out of local materials and have exhibits by local artisans.

Historic India on art panels

Nandalal visited settlements in Haripura and spent weeks observing and sketching the village culture, particular to that region. He created 84 panels out of the 400 paintings that decorated the venue; of these 77 are on display at the exhibition in Bengaluru.

Apart from rural life, Nandalal Bose created panels documenting the Indian freedom movement and the nation's historical heritage, with motifs and icons from mythology and folklore. The panels in colours of saffron, green and white, with gold leaf accents, were greatly appreciated by Gandhiji.

Nandalal was also commissioned with illustrating the Constitution of India. For all his achievements Bose has been the recipient of the Padma Vibhushan, Deshikottama and the Tagore Birth Centenary Medal, among others.

The exhibition at NGMA showcases a copy of manuscript of the Constitution of India, a linocut print and a depiction Mahatma Gandhi leading the Dandi March, apart from the 77 original Haripura panels. The

Haripura Panels - Nandalal Bose (1882-1966) was curated by Subarna Patro, Darshan Kumar YU and Amrutha R, of the NGMA Bangalore team.

Haripura Panels - Nandalal Bose (1882-1966) will open for public viewing on November 4 and will be on till April 28, 2024.

Once upon a time The Haripura Panels by Nandalal Bose give a glimpse of India's yesteryears. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SC youths stripped and urinated upon

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUNELVELI

The police at Thatchanallur in Tirunelveli district have arrested six persons of an intermediate caste for allegedly assaulting, stripping and urinating on two Scheduled Caste youths on Monday.

The police said Manoj Kumar, 21, and his friend Mariappan, 19, of Manimurtheeswaram, had gone to the Thamirabarani to take a bath.

While they were returning home, the accused, who were allegedly consuming liquor near the river, stopped them and asked them about their native place and their caste.

Assaulted

The victims told the police that when they revealed that they were from a Dalit hamlet, the inebriated men assaulted and stripped them and urinated on them.

"We were detained there till night by the gang. They also took ₹5,000 and two mobile phones from us before chasing us away from the spot.

After going to a relative's house nearby, we contacted our parents, who admitted us to Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital," one of the victims told the police.

The other youth corroborated his statement.

Case registered

Registering a case based on a complaint from Mr. Manoj Kumar and Mr. Mariappan under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the Thatchanallur police on Tuesday arrested Ponnumani, 25, of Thaazhaiyoothuthu; Nallamuthu, 21; Aayiram, 19; Ramar, 22; Siva, 22; and Lakshmanan, 22, all from Thirumalaikozhunthupuram near Palayamkottai.

They were remanded in judicial custody on Tuesday night.

No lead to prove Kochi blast accused is radicalised: police

According to Kerala Police, Martin stands firm on his act which resulted in the death of three persons; accused asserts that teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses congregation are 'anti-national'

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Senior police officials privy to the investigation of the multiple explosions at a Jehovah's Witnesses religious gathering at Kalamassery in Kochi, Kerala, on October 29, said on Wednesday that they were yet to come across any lead to prove that the accused was highly radicalised.

The police said Martin V.D., the sole accused in the multiple explosions, had no previous history of carrying out criminal/illegal activities. The interrogation had revealed that he had finalised the plan of action while working as a foreman with a construction company in Dubai. He left Dubai nearly two months ago with the firm resolve to carry out the attack and had kept track of the date of announcement of the next gathering of the sect.

In the net: Martin, accused in the Kalamassery blast case, after his arrest in Kochi on Tuesday. PTI

The meticulous planning was evident as he had stacked all evidence in order to confirm his role, the police said. Though the accused had not yet confessed to any external support, the investigating team had no plans to believe it as they pointed out that a fool-proof investigation was progressing.

The police said that the accused stood firm on his act that resulted in the death of two women and a 12-year-old child.

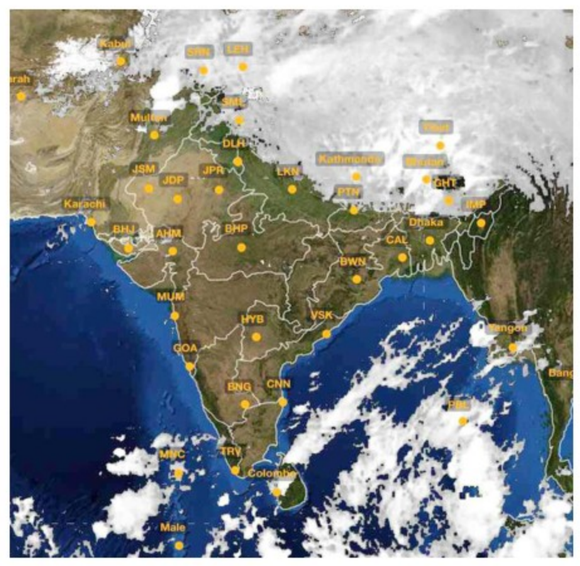
According to senior police officials, the accused wanted to convey a message that an individual can react against what he claimed on his social media post shortly after the crime as "teachings that degraded other religions and belief".

In a Facebook video posted before his surrender, he had alleged that the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses congregation, of which he was a 'non-serious' member for nearly 16 years, were 'anti-national'.

It is learnt that the NIA is looking at his stint in Dubai and whether he had received any technical support or assistance from outside to manufacture the improvised explosive devices used for the blasts.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Thunderstorm with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe; with lightning likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.9	22.4	Kozhikode	8	34.4	25.8
Ahmedabad	—	36.5	21.5	Kurnool	—	34.3	25.3
Aizawl	—	31.8	17.0	Lucknow	—	32.5	19.1
Allahabad	—	32.8	20.0	Madurai	4	32.8	23.6
Bengaluru	—	29.2	20.4	Mangaluru	—	30.9	24.4
Bhopal	—	32.3	15.0	Mumbai	—	36.0	22.5
Bhubaneswar	—	32.4	22.4	Mysuru	—	31.0	24.4
Chandigarh	—	32.7	16.2	New Delhi	—	32.3	16.4
Chennai	0.3	32.6	26.3	Patna	—	33.2	20.5
Coimbatore	21	32.0	23.0	Port Blair	45	28.2	23.3
Dehradun	—	31.0	13.6	Puducherry	0.8	33.0	24.8
Gangtok	—	20.4	12.9	Pune	—	31.7	17.3
Goa	—	33.6	23.0	Raipur	—	31.8	20.3
Guwahati	—	33.2	19.8	Ranchi	—	31.2	17.1
Hubballi	—	32.0	21.0	Shillong	—	24.2	14.8
Hyderabad	—	30.7	22.1	Shimla	—	21.5	10.7
Imphal	—	30.0	15.1	Srinagar	—	21.0	3.7
Jaipur	—	33.1	21.2	Thiruvananthapuram	26	32.4	22.7
Kochi	0.8	31.0	25.4	Tiruchi	4	32.7	24.0
Kohima	—	25.0	12.1	Vijayawada	—	32.8	24.4
Kolkata	—	33.6	24.0	Visakhapatnam	—	33.0	26.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	4	2	.29	210	170	
Bengaluru	6	11	.53	108	101	
Chennai	4	139	.36	20	35	
Delhi	6	89	.58	413	410	
Hyderabad	.11	55	.50	155	130	
Kolkata	.10	65	.12	121	128	
Lucknow	.11	74	.57	117	274	
Mumbai	.89	62	.31	250	167	
Pune	122	184	112	224	132	
Visakhapatnam	4	38	.45	94	105	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hanumangarh, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 414 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Silchar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Former MP quits BJP, to join Cong. ahead of Telangana polls

Vivek Venkataswamy

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Former MP Vivek Venkataswamy resigned from the BJP and is likely to go back to his parent party Congress. Earlier, sources said that Telangana PCC chief A. Revanth Reddy requested him to join the Congress. Mr. Vivek's son Vamshi Krishna is likely to be nominated from Chennur constituency by Congress.

Mr. Vivek was elected to Parliament in 2009 from the Peddapalli constituency and to put pressure on the Congress, he joined the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (now BRS).

Mr. Vivek joined the BJP after the Parliament polls.

BJP is sure to win poll as it has people's support: ex-Minister

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The plight of the Kaleshwaram irrigation project and the two-bedroom housing scheme would have only reinforced the Telangana people's desire to vote out the BRS government headed by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, claimed former Minister and Telangana BJP election campaign committee chairman Eatala Rajender on Wednesday.

"Telangana people feel cheated and are not ready to withstand another term of dictatorial rule of KCR. BJP is the only alternative and it is sure to be elected to power," he asserted at a press conference in New Delhi.

He was talking to the media after Congress leader from Yellareddy B. Subash Reddy was inducted into the party by Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and Development of Northeast Region G. Kishan Reddy in the presence of other leaders.

TTD cancels plot allotted to Vijay Mallya in 1991

G.P. Shukla
TIRUMALA

The TTD has cancelled the plot allotted to Vijay Mallya, chairman of the United Breweries (UB) group, after a period of 29 years for failing to execute the final agreement and maintain the rest house.

The TTD has also resolved to invite fresh applications for the allotment of the plot to a new donor for taking up renovation/reconstruction works under its new policy of cottage donation scheme.

The TTD has taken the decision as there is no response from Mr. Mallya to its letters and the series of notices served on him.

The TTD had allotted Plot No. 2 in the Dharmagiri area in the vicinity of the geological wonder, 'Silathoranam' (natural rock formation), to Mr. Mallya in 1991. He had constructed a palatial guest house, 'Venkata Vijayam', with nine suits and handed it over to the TTD amid much fanfare after signing a preliminary agreement in 1993.

However, Mr. Mallya had failed to execute the mandatory final agreement despite a lapse of several years and reminders from the TTD.

Left with no other option, the TTD had constituted a committee to explore the options of allotting the plot to a new donor under its revised cottage donation policy.

The committee, during its inspections, had found the condition of the rest house in a poor state owing to lack of maintenance.

The committee, in its report, had also submitted that a decision with regard to providing an equivalent extent of land could be taken in accordance with the resolution adopted by the TTD in 2005, should the donor approach it for an agreement in the future.

The engineering wing, in its report, had highlighted the defects such as leakages, damages to false roofing, wall panelling, and water and sewage lines. Based on it, the TTD had issued a show-cause notice to Mr. Mallya in March this year asking him to explain why the allotment should not be cancelled.

The notice, which was sent to his residential address in Bengaluru, could not be delivered as "the addressee has left the country."

The TTD will now invite applications for allotment of the plot to a new donor in the next open tender and has pegged the minimum donation amount at ₹5 crore.

FiberNet scam: CID attaches properties of accused persons

Sambasiva Rao M.
GUNTUR

The Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (A.P. CID) has attached certain immovable properties of the accused persons and companies in the alleged scam in the Phase-I of the A.P. FiberNet Project case.

The government has allowed the CID to attach properties, which include residential flats, plots and agriculture lands, in the limits of the municipal corporations of Guntur and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad in Telangana.

The CID alleges that "former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, A-25 in the case, had conspired with Vemuru Harikrishna Prasad (A-1) and Tummala Gopichand (A-11), director of Tera Software Ltd., hatched a conspiracy, and awarded the project in favour of Tera Software Ltd. in a fraudulent manner."

They registered the case on September 9, 2021, based on a complaint filed by M. Madhusudhan Reddy, Managing Director, APSFL, Vijayawada.

The CID has said properties are attached under the provisions of Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944.

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number 1800 102 1878
Or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR The Hindu Young World THE HINDU

Government of Karnataka
(PWD Division Raichur)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION RAICHUR
Telephone No. : 08532-225778 & 234747

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION -(KW- 1)

THESE WORKS ARE GENARAL SC & ST CONTRACTORS

1) Notification No & Date : PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2023-24/2216 Date: 26-10-2023 **2) Name of work's:** Raichur District Total 34 work's Raichur, Manvi, Deodurga, Lingasugur & Sindhanur taluk Different types of Buildings & Road Maintainance works. **3) Amount of works:** Min Rs. 101525.01 Max Rs. 1694185.80 **4) EMD Amount :** Min Rs. 2600.00 Max Rs. 42400.00 **5) Period (including Manson):** Min 2 (Two) Months Max 4 (Four) Months **6) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender:** 08/11/2023 16:00:00 **7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender :** 09/11/2023 16:30:00
For More details visit this website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

SD/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD Division, RAICHUR.
DIP/RCR/197/KSMC&A/194/2023-24

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	North West-1	BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/2143/2023-24 Dt: 30/10/2023	Rs.12,34,381/- / Rs.36,500/-	17-11-2023 upto 5.30 p.m.	20-11-2023 after 3.00 p.m.
		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/2145/2023-24 Dt: 30/10/2023	Rs.14,21,515/- / Rs.42,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-1).

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.

2.	South West-2	BWSSB/EE(SW-2)/TO/PB/1975/2023-24 Dt: 30/10/2023	Rs.26,34,521/- / Rs.52,700/-	15-11-2023 upto 12.00 Noon	17-11-2023 after 12.00 Noon

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-2).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO1936/23-24

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Under Taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KBJNL.NRBC.Divn.No.6, Chikkahonnakuni,
Tq: Devadurga. Dist: Raichur-584 111. KARNATAKA

No. KBJNL/NRBC/D-6/ PB-3/NRBC Extn /TND//2023-24/424 DATED:30-10-2023.

POSTPONED NOTIFICATION

Ref:- 1) T.O. Tender Notification No. 399, Dated:- 21/10/2023.

In continuation of this office tender notification cited under above reference, the tender for the work was invited by this office through the e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Due to technical reasons and the said tender is directed to publish through the new portal kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Hence it is postponed.

Further details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on office days.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, NRBC, Division No.6,
CHIKKAHONNAKUNI-584111.
DIP/RCR/198/KSMC&A/195/2023-24

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E-TENDER NOTICE

DRM / TRD, North Western Railway, Jodhpur for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work. **1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No:- http://www.ireps.gov.in 2. Date & time of closing of e-tender:-** 28.11.2023 up to 15.00 hrs. **3. Date & time of opening of e-tender: -** After 15.00 hrs. on 28.11.2023 **Tender No.:** 06TRD-JU-ETENDER-23-24 **Name of Work:** Provision of Railway Electrification Work of BGKT/Diesel Shed and other associate Railway Electrification work over JU Division. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.) :** ₹73642074.30 **Tender No.:** 07TRD-JU-ETENDER-23-24 **Name of Work:** TRD work in c/w Construction of LHS at various section of Jodhpur Division and launching of composite girders for the ROB of Jodhpur Division. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.) :** ₹6207395.60 For detailed information visit **http://www.ireps.gov.in** 1147-AC/23

Follow us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Office of The Executive Engineer Public Works Division Latur
E-mail : latur.ee@mahapwd.com Telephone : 02382/200868 Fax : 02382 / 200147

Notice No. (SBD) LTR-21 For 2023-24 E-Tender

Online tenders for following Sanctioned works are invited by Executive Engineer Public Works Division Latur from the contractors registered with Government of Maharashtra in appropriated class. Tender Documents can be download from website of http//mahatenders.gov.in Right to accept or reject tenders is reserved with Executive Engineer Public Works Division Latur.

The Blank Tender forms can be download from date 02.11.2023 to 02.12.2023 upto 18:55 hrs. Download tender will be submitted online on or before date 02.12.2023 upto 18:55 hrs. open after date 04.12.2023 at 11:00. The prebid for This work is on 10.11.2023 at C. E. Public Works Region Office Nanded place at 3.00 pm.

Note:
1. Details of Tender Documents Will be available on website http//mahapwd.com http//mahatenders.gov.in
2. For details contact - 24x7 Help Desk Toll Free No. 1800 3070 2232 Mobile No.+917878107985/86 +917878007972/73 Email : eproc.maharashtra@gmail.com cppp-support@nic.in
3. Right is reserved to reject any or all tenders without any reason thereof.
4. We are not responsible for any problem crop up during the Online E- tender process

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Latur
DGIPR/2023-2024/4570

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGCO25521)
No.903/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/EE(O)/AEE-1&3/23-24/Cys-24 Date: 30.10.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement Mode Only)

KPTCL invites Tender from this office for Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works at various 66KV S/s Harihar-Hospet, 110 KV S/s Mruthyunjay Nagar, Gadag Road, Akshay Colony, Annigeri, Kalaghatagi, Ramankoppa, Shedbal, Navalgund, Kadankoppa, Gamangatti, Hirehal, Shirahatti, Sambapur, Belavanki, Dambal, Bellatti, Shingatalur, Mundgod, Ganeshgudi, Haliyal, Ankola, Siddapur, Arga, Tiluvalli, Aremallapura, Rattihalli, Shiggaon, Haveri, Hirekerur, Tumminakatti, Hosahonnatti, Basavankatti and 220KV R/s Bidnal, Harthi, Ambewadi, Karwar, Esale Sirsi, Ranebennur and 400KV Doni of Tr.(W&M) Circle, KPTCL Hubballi. **Bid Enqiry No: KPTCL/903/SEE/HBL/Tr(W&M)/EE(O)/T-1&3/23-24/SHIFT-DUTY/Service.**

The detailed notification regarding the works called through the e-procurement mode can be obtained by logging on to "e-Procurements website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **02.11.2023.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Trans. (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Vidhyuth Nagar, Hubballi - 24.

Malware malice

Repeated allegations of spyware use need thorough, independent probe

In a thriving democracy, the Opposition and the press are vital components of a structure controlled by a ruling establishment that requires accountability for it to be effective. That over a dozen Opposition leaders and journalists received email alerts from Apple that their devices were targeted by "state-sponsored attackers" suggests that this could be a repeat of what these members of the first and fourth estate went through in the Pegasus episode recently. In early 2022, an article in *The New York Times* detailed how Pegasus, a spyware developed by the Israel-based NSO Group, was used as a tool to advance Israeli interests, as Tel Aviv offered it to other countries which used it against Opposition leaders, journalists and dissidents. In July 2021, a reporters' consortium, the Pegasus Project, found that at least 40 journalists, cabinet Ministers and other officials in India were possibly subject to surveillance using Pegasus software. A Supreme Court of India panel, however, found no conclusive evidence of the spyware on the 29 phones that it had examined; but the apex court also noted, tellingly, that the Union government was not cooperating with the panel. Unlike the Indian government's lackadaisical and dismissive approach towards the NSO group and its products – which *The NYT* reported as allegedly bought by the Indian government from Israel as part of a $2 billion package including sophisticated weapons and intelligence gear in 2017 – other governments in the West implemented stringent steps following the disclosures on spyware use.

Apple's iPhones are used by nearly 20% of smartphone users worldwide, and by nearly 7% of such users in India, largely for their diverse facilities and robust security provisions. Researchers had found that spyware software such as Pegasus had targeted iPhones and the operating system iOS as early as 2016, and Apple had come up with updates to fix Pegasus exploits, besides going on to sue NSO. The company clarified that the alerts sent now did not accuse a "specific state actor"; it also said that it would not be able to disclose how the targets were discovered, but reiterated that the alerts had to be taken seriously. Yet, with the specific targets being Opposition leaders and journalists, the question whether it is the ruling establishment that is subjecting them to surveillance is important. This can only be verified by an independent and empowered investigation, involving the apex court again, which should, this time around, compel the Union government to cooperate. More immediately, the government must come clean on its dealings with NSO and its use of software provided by such agencies and also emulate steps taken by other governments in proscribing such entities.

Virtues of planning

Blueprint to develop India by 2047 must factor in critical governance reforms

In early 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to unveil a road map to transform the country into a developed nation with a $30 trillion economy by the time it completes 100 years of Independence. The Vision India@2047 plan, as it is officially named, has been in the works for nearly two years with officials across ministries brainstorming on how to take the country from its current level of development to where it aspires to be. The NITI Aayog, in the process of giving this vision document a final shape, will soon run its central ideas and goals past top minds across sectors, including World Bank President Ajay Banga, Apple chief Tim Cook, as well as Indian industrialists and thought leaders, to finetune them and factor in any blind spots. Coming ahead of the Lok Sabha election, the plan may well be viewed as the government's policy playbook promise for prospective voters. But irrespective of electoral outcomes, future governments would do well to keep an earnest outlook towards the broad agenda. India's rise from 1991, when it accounted for 1.1% of the global economic output, to the 3.5% share it now commands as the world's fifth largest economy, has been driven by governments of varying political hues largely sticking to the reform and liberalisation agenda. Blips in the pace and vigour of reforms have also been visible across governments, including the present coalition-independent regime, especially on the trickier changes needed in factor markets such as land and labour.

The final plan should have some ideas to help navigate such challenging reforms and ensure policy certainty for global investors keen to bet on India's growth story. Minimising the government's role to that of an enabler rather than a micro-manager, is another detail that would be critical, especially as some recent decisions have marked a hark back to habits of the past, be it production-linked incentives, import licensing or overtly zealous taxation. A stated focus area of the vision document that splices its action points and outcome goals into two periods – 2030, and the 17 year-period from then till 2047 – is to ensure that India does not slip into a middle income trap a few years from now. That requires hastening the long-pursued structural shift in the economy from farms to factories, and arresting a widening trend of income inequality. While the Five-Year Plans have been abandoned, the 2047 plan must be revisited at suitable intervals to recalibrate goals based on evolving global trends and Black Swan events. Aiming for a high 9% growth rate between 2030 and 2047 is laudable but factoring in alternative scenarios and changing course when warranted, is also advisable.

Impacting a woman's freedom to reproductive choices

Suhrith Parthasarathy

is an advocate practising in the Madras High Court

On October 16, in *X vs Union of India*, the Supreme Court of India declined permission to a woman who was seeking to terminate a 26 week-long pregnancy. A Bench presided over by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), D.Y. Chandrachud, held that the woman's case fell outside the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971

The Court said the statute permitted the termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks only in cases where the foetus exhibited substantial abnormality, or where the woman's life was under direct threat. Here, since doctors would have to terminate a "viable foetus", the Court rejected the plea to exercise its extraordinary powers.

Viable foetus versus woman's right

The judgment falls short of bestowing any explicit rights to the unborn. But the upshot of its conclusion is just that: when a foetus becomes viable, and is capable of surviving outside the mother's uterus, the woman's right to choose stands extinguished, barring circumstances where the specific conditions outlined in the MTP Act are met.

In so holding, the judgment suffers from at least two errors. The first stems from the Court's failure to ask itself what ought to be seen as central questions to resolving the dispute: Does a foetus enjoy an autonomous moral status? Does it have legal standing? Is it capable of exercising constitutional rights? The judgment does not engage with these questions and, as a result, places the rights of a foetus at a pedestal, above that of the rights of a pregnant woman to her privacy and dignity.

Second, the Court fails to examine whether the MTP Act is merely an enabling legislation. Does the statute facilitate the exercise of a fundamental right? Or, do its exemptions constitute a conferral of rights in and by themselves? Had these questions been posed and answered, the Court may well have considered whether a woman ought to be allowed to terminate her pregnancy outside the terms spelled out in the legislation. If the right to freely make reproductive choices is fundamental, flowing from the Constitution, the Court ought to scarcely feel injuncted from issuing directions beyond the MTP Act's remit.

Consider the facts. The petitioner, a 27-year-old married woman, X, with two children, the youngest barely a year old, wants her pregnancy terminated. She became aware of her pregnancy only 20 weeks in, as she had lactational amenorrhea – a condition in which women who are breastfeeding have amenorrhea, that is not menstruating. The petitioner submitted before the Court that when she ultimately underwent an ultrasound scan (owing to symptoms of nausea and abdominal discomfort), she was found to be 24 weeks pregnant.

> The judgment in *X vs Union of India*, which falls short of bestowing any explicit rights to the unborn, suffers from errors

Petitioner's plea's and rulings

X made two chief pleas: one, she submitted, that she was suffering from post-partum depression and her mental condition did not allow her to raise another child; and two, her husband, she said, was the only earning member of the family and they could ill-afford to care for a third child.

At the first instance, on October 9, the Court, on examining a report submitted by a medical board constituted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences ruled in her favour. To allow the pregnancy to continue, a Bench comprising Justices Hima Kohli and B.V. Nagarathna held, could have a serious bearing on the petitioner's mental health.

But, on the following day, the Union government went back to Court and said that one of the members on the medical board had written in, asking for a clarification on whether the termination could go ahead, given the viable status of the foetus.

When the Bench reassembled, on October 11, the petitioner remained resolute in her plea. But the two judges found themselves disagreeing with each other. Justice Kohli said her "judicial conscience" did not allow her to permit an abortion. Justice Nagarathna held that the petitioner's decision must be respected. The woman's choice, she ruled, was paramount, and her right to reproductive health included a right to an abortion. What is more, a foetus, she found, is "dependant on the mother and cannot be recognised as an individual personality from that of its mother as its very existence is owed to the mother".

This impasse between the two judges led to the constitution of a separate Bench presided over by the CJI. A new report from the medical board confirmed that the foetus was viable and had no abnormalities, and that the medication that the petitioner was on would not in any way endanger the pregnancy. Given that neither of the exemptions available under the MTP Act were met, the Court now ruled that its earlier order had to be recalled.

But in ruling this way, the verdict runs athwart the Court's recent jurisprudence on the fundamental rights to privacy and dignity. Indeed, it was only last year, in *X vs The Govt. of Delhi*, that the Court, relying on its nine-judge Bench ruling in *Puttaswamy*, held that the right to privacy – implicit in Article 21 of the Constitution –enabled individuals to exercise autonomy over their body and mind, and allowed women complete freedom to make reproductive choices.

There, Justice Chandrachud wrote, "...In case of an unwanted or incidental pregnancy, the burden invariably falls on the pregnant woman affecting her mental and physical health. Article 21 of the Constitution recognizes and protects the right of a woman to undergo termination of pregnancy if her mental or physical health is at stake. Importantly, it is the woman alone who has the right over her body and is the ultimate decision-maker on the question of whether she wants to undergo an abortion." The judgment further found that a woman's right to make reproductive choices without undue interference from the State sprang out of the very idea of human dignity.

If this is the correct position of law, surely the MTP Act must be seen as an enabling legislation, not as a law that confers a liberty as much as a law that seeks to provide a means to enforcing a fundamental right. Viewed thus, wherever the statute's mandate is found inadequate by a court of law, it would only be imperative that directions are issued to further the exercise of a woman's right to choose. But the ruling in *X vs Union of India* fails to do this.

Foetuses and rights

Even more damaging, though, is the judgment's implicit assertion that foetuses have constitutional rights. Our jurisprudence on abortion has been built on a converse premise. The guarantees of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution – the rights to equal protection and life – are conferred on persons, and the Constitution decidedly does not award personhood to a foetus. As it happens, even the MTP Act makes no such assertion. For if it did, it could not plausibly create an exception from the timelines it stipulates to cases where a pregnant woman's life is under immediate and direct threat.

As Justice Nagarathna held, there is no place within our constitutional structure to see a foetus as anything but dependent on the mother. To see it as a separate, distinct personality would be tantamount to conferring a set of rights on it that the Constitution grants to no other class of person. Such a reading would efface altogether a jurisprudence that grants primacy to a woman's freedom to make reproductive choices – a right that is intrinsic in Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

AI and the issue of human-centricity in copyright law

Arul George Scaria

is an Associate Professor at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU)

The Executive Order in the United States, issued by the Biden administration on October 30, on 'Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI)', illustrates the changing attitude of global leaders towards AI regulation. Implementation and the use of AI without the necessary safeguards can have enormous implications for the future of humanity, and the changes in regulatory approaches are a welcome development.

Ownership and enforcement

One of the many areas wherein AI has raised tough questions is ownership and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights. For example, while generative AI tools such as ChatGPT and Midjourney allow people with minimal creative skills to produce reasonably beautiful outputs with the help of a couple of text prompts, their use has raised a number of copyright-related questions. These include whether the use of copyrighted materials, including texts and images, as training data infringes the rights of millions of authors and artists on the Internet. A related query revolves around copyright ownership over output generated by AI, autonomously or with inputs from humans.

A recent decision of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in *Stephen Thaler vs Shira Perlmutter* is remarkable because it provides some insights on whether copyright can exist in work autonomously created by AI. In this case, Mr. Thaler owned an AI system named 'Creativity Machine' which he claimed had autonomously created a piece of visual art. In his application for copyright registration before the U.S. Copyright Office, 'Creativity Machine' was mentioned as the author of the work. Mr. Thaler also added that the copyright of the work would be transferred to him, as the owner of 'Creativity Machine'.

The copyright office rejected the application on the ground that the submitted work lacked human authorship. His pleas to the Office to reconsider its decision were also rejected on the same rationale. He challenged the rejection before the District Court subsequently. The primary legal question before the Court was whether a work autonomously generated by an AI system could be copyrightable. After reviewing the relevant statutory provisions, case laws, and theoretical justifications for copyright protection, the court concluded that human creativity was essential to copyright protection.

> There needs to be a cautious approach in extending existing IP protections to work generated by Artificial Intelligence

The court's line of reasoning is in tune with the general position of the U.S. Copyright Office thus far *vis-à-vis* work created autonomously by an AI system. In a document entitled 'Copyright Registration Guidance: Works Containing Material Generated by Artificial Intelligence', released in March 2023, the copyright office had categorically stated that "copyright can protect only material that is the product of human creativity. Fundamentally, the term 'author,' used in both the Constitution and the Copyright Act, excludes nonhumans".

The office also clarified that copyright applicants had a duty to disclose the inclusion of AI-generated content in any application, followed by detailed guidelines on doing so in registration forms. Recently, it also initiated a public consultation on various copyright-related questions posed by AI.

The case in India

Compare the U.S. episode with the prevailing situation in India. In 2020, the Indian Copyright Office registered a work of art called 'Suryast', for which an AI system named "RAGHAV Artificial Intelligence Painting App" was listed as a coauthor. The Copyright Office had previously rejected an application in which the same system had been listed as the sole author. While India has not effected any legislative changes in the Copyright Act 1957, the Copyright Office ignored the human authorship requirement in Indian copyright law when granting registration with an AI system as a co-author.

When the matter became controversial, the office sent a notice to the human co-author in the application declaring its intent to withdraw the registration. But the data from the Indian Copyright Office website suggests that the work concerned continues to remain registered. The Copyright Office is also yet to articulate mandatory disclosure requirements on the use of AI or even initiate broader consultations on this important issue.

It may also be useful to review the current scenario in light of the recommendations of the 161st Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce entitled 'Review of the Intellectual Property Rights Regime in India' (July 2021). The report had suggested reviewing the Copyright Act 1957 and the Patent Act 1970 to "incorporate the emerging technologies of AI and AI-related inventions in thir ambit".

A careful reading of the report suggests some of its recommendations aim to relax the standards for securing copyright and patents. But these recommendations do not appear to be informed by any study of IP-related challenges and needs of the AI innovation ecosystem in India. The committee did not consider the potential adverse implications of such an approach for the startup ecosystem in India. This is alarming.

IP rights confer monopoly protection, and as any monopoly rights can have extensive negative consequences on society, we need to be cautious about extending, in a straightforward way, existing IP protections to AI-generated work. Many of the traditional economic arguments such as the need to incentivise authors and inventors through copyright or patents, do not hold with the autonomous creative output of AI systems, since machines are not influenced by such incentives.

In sum, policymakers and courts in India also need to assume a more cautious approach against diluting the human-centricity in copyright law.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Apple 'alert'

That several prominent persons have received an alert from the high profile technology company Apple (Page 1, " Apple cyberattack alert : Opposition corners govt." November, 1) of the possibility of being spied upon is a serious matter. If there has been any attempt at a clandestine tapping or hacking of phones, it is a serious breach of rights and privileges of an individual, and is unlawful and unethical. The issue gains importance and credence with the Assembly and parliamentary elections to be held soon, and when electronic communication devices will be put to much use. The Union government should lose no time to have the matter probed as soon as possible and host the outcome in the public domain at the earliest.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

This is an era of Artificial Intelligence and it is interesting and scary at the same time that certain individuals have been affected. With a Union Minister making the claim that 'someone may have played a prank on these individuals', and his colleague calling the allegations 'vague', is some 'rogue tech' on the prowl then?

K.K. Rao,
Mysuru

₹10 coin

I request all bank officials and the Reserve Bank of India to educate owners of establishments, transport corporations as well as the general public about the validity of the ₹10 coin. There are many occasions when the bearer of the ₹10 coin faces embarrassment as many reject the coin under the impression that it is invalid. If there is such a widespread and incorrect notion, then banks must have provision to exchange this denomination for notes.

Sirajunnisa,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Commentary

Cricket commentaries of the past — Richie Benaud, with his signature comment 'marvellous'; Tony Greig with his voice modulations; Tony Cozier with his lilting tone, and Dr. Narottam Puri who would not miss any minute detail — ensured a ring-side view of the happenings in the ground when the luxury of television was unavailable. Present-day commentators should live up to the expectations of viewers.

Dr. V. Purushothaman,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Reconciliation over retribution

Ashok Lavasa

is a former Election Commissioner and former Vice President of Asian Development Bank

The image of shattered solar panels in Gaza amid billowing smoke is a grim reminder that peace is a prerequisite for progress. If the political leadership of the world cannot ensure a peaceful present, how do we expect them to protect us from other threats like "global boiling"? Francis Bacon in his essay *On Revenge* describes revenge as "a kind of wild justice." 'Wild' means raw or not regulated by judicial restraint or civilised conduct. Revenge is an act of retaliation implying an earlier act of provocation. Even if that is the case, and whatever its irrationality, an act of vengeance by the establishment can never be justified like the earlier act. The state can punish an unlawful act through its statutory organs but can it subject an entire community to retribution by mindless annihilation? There cannot be any apology for the perpetrators of violence but the responsibility of the state lies in bringing them to justice as administered by the strong arm of law and not in bulldozing its way in a manner that grinds everything to dust.

Revenge may never be able to settle issues, let alone settle scores. It creates its own vicious cycle, a chain that keeps adding links to an unending series of self-destructive events. The human mind is designed to react but it also possesses the capacity for restraint. Animals understand risk and restrain themselves if they perceive an action as risky. But take away restraint from a human being and you remove the foundation of social behaviour. The laws of any land, international law and treaties bind people and countries to acceptable conduct. Its absence would lead to disorder and unmanageable conflicts. Nations that cross the boundaries of civilised behaviour can only give lasting wounds, not lasting solutions, even as they achieve the myopic objective of causing mayhem by taking revenge.

Nobody should be forgiven for acts of terror but even the anachronistic Hammurabi code demanded "an eye for an eye", and not the entire human body. Gandhi thought that even that would make all of us blind in the long run. He was not a preacher but a practitioner of non-violence who was ultimately able to defeat the worst form of colonial violence where others who followed retaliatory tactics, were defeated. Recall Gandhi's response in South Africa when a police officer's wife saved him from a violent mob that manhandled him upon his return from India. When asked to lodge a complaint against those who used force against him, he refused because that would fuel acrimony and cause a scar difficult to heal. His accepting their behaviour as a manifestation of deviant conduct not meriting his response had a greater chance of not perpetuating animosity between the two communities.

It is possible that in the real world, this behaviour is dismissed as fictional. It may not be held viable in statecraft too although there are examples where cooperation has lasted longer than divisive action that has invariably led to permanent conflicts. Forces of unity and adjustment provide longer lasting solutions. In the short run, the ability of an individual to subdue his opponent and a nation's success in subjugating a community might seem as a triumph. Still, it might not be so easily possible to extinguish subterranean sentiments that take their own time to erupt. Inhuman destruction generally leaves cinder that smoulders underneath.

It is the responsibility of the judicial system to punish the offenders and that of governments to find solutions to minimise conflict. Lack of efforts to find consensual solutions gives opportunity to fringe elements to rise and be perceived as crusaders for a cause and creates disorder. This invites the wrath of law thus discrediting the cause and giving the establishment a legitimate ground to retaliate. The champions become the quarries along with the cause and the wave of government retaliation causes more collateral damage nullifying the legitimacy of its action. This is the vicious conundrum of violence that gives those in power, the image of being ruthless, inconsiderate and disproportionate in their response to acts of unlawful aggression by the fringe. Encounters staged by the police against hardened criminals might be approved by a frenetic crowd but this is not sustainable for a civilised society. The establishment must punish as per due process but not as a desperate avenger.

Retaliation has a strong logic that sounds convincing when passions are inflamed. The forces of evil inflict indiscriminate injury, invite the wrath of the victims and approval for consequential action however disproportionate. We crave instant justice but an exchange involving more innocent deaths can never be fair. Such an exchange does entail unintended casualties of the innocent being used as shields. So, while the first set of deaths were of innocent victims, the second set of innocent unintended victims is a price people are willing to pay in order to carry out a seemingly justified retaliation. In the heat of the situation, nobody has the patience to go to the root of the problem and the manner in which grievances are allowed to take the form of ghastly terror.

One of the strengths of an effective administrator or an empathetic human being is the ability to retain equanimity and restraint in any situation. Those in power cannot act as angry bystanders or the instruments of nemesis due to their inflamed egos. The unreasonable hubris of a sovereign can only lead to retribution, not reconciliation. Dialogue is the only reasonable way forward in a civilised world where might cannot determine who is right.

Nations that cross the boundaries of civilised behaviour can only give lasting wounds, not lasting solutions

AIADMK's minority outreach plan

Severing of ties with BJP alone will not guarantee AIADMK success in elections

STATE OF PLAY

T. Ramakrishnan
ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

The AIADMK, which severed ties with the BJP in late September, has begun to make efforts to win over religious minorities, especially Muslims.

As part of this strategy, the party and its General Secretary, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, demanded a few weeks ago in the Assembly that long-time Muslim prisoners be released. Though the AIADMK was not the only party to raise this issue, its identification with the matter did not go unnoticed. In fact, in his reply to the debate on the issue in the House, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin questioned the "special concern" of Mr. Palaniswami and wondered why the AIADMK, which had been in power for 10 years, had turned a "blind eye" to the plight of Muslim prisoners. However, as far as the AIADMK General Secretary is concerned, the DMK regime "is trembling with fear" that the AIADMK would register a resounding victory in the Lok Sabha election after snapping ties with the BJP. Also, he has claimed that of late, representatives from minority groups have been meeting him and extending their support.

The Dravidian major's decision to break the alliance with the BJP came in for appreciation from former MLA Thamimum Ansari. This was significant as Mr. Ansari had remained a critic of the AIADMK regime during 2016-2021 after getting elected from the Nagapattinam Assembly constituency on the AIADMK's symbol of "two leaves." One of the reasons he turned critical of the Palaniswami government was the friendly approach the the Dravidian major took towards the BJP.

Even before the announcement of the separation came, the AIADMK's two decisions – the opposition to the Uniform Civil Code and the readmission of former Labour Minister A. Anwhar Raajhaa into the party – were meant to reassure the minorities. Mr. Raajhaa was known for his strong views against the BJP and he fiercely opposed the Triple Talaq Bill in December 2018.

In recent weeks, Mr. Palaniswami has emphasised that his party would not have any alliance with the BJP even for the next Assembly polls, slated for 2026. In fact, immediately after the 2021 Assembly election, certain sections of the AIADMK felt the need to revive ties with minorities. This was echoed by C.Ve. Shanmugam, former Law Minister and Rajya Sabha MP. Even though, at that time, party coordinator O. Panneerselvam and Mr. Palaniswami dismissed the talk of parting ways with the BJP, it was obvious that uneasiness prevailed between the two parties at the field level, a feature noticed even during the 2021 Assembly election when the AIADMK's vote share in contested seats (40.48%) was well ahead of the BJP's (34.25%).

Critics of the BJP would often say that in times of success, neither of the Dravidian parties had any electoral tie-up with the BJP. In 2001 and 2021, the DMK and the AIADMK approached the electorate with the BJP as their ally. On both occasions, they lost power. However, the situation with respect to the Lok Sabha elections was different. In two of the four elections – 1998 and 1999, the BJP was with the side that secured a majority in the State. In 1998, the BJP's ally was the AIADMK and the next year, it was with the DMK. The results of the other two polls – 2004 and 2019 – were disastrous when the principal Opposition party and the BJP were partners again. The alliance could not win a single seat in 2004 whereas it netted only one in 2019.

Need of the hour

There is a view within the AIADMK that severing ties with the BJP alone would not guarantee success in elections. The organisation has to put in place a "formidable alliance," along the lines of what Jayalalithaa did during the 2011 Assembly elections. It remains a moot point whether the AIADMK will be able to attract any of the DMK allies to its fold. Also, the Dravidian major, according to veterans in the organisation, has to drive home the point that it is firm in its opposition of the BJP. This has assumed importance in light of a campaign by the DMK that the divorce between the two former allies was "a farcical drama." What has also been observed is that in the last month or so, the AIADMK has not come out strongly against the BJP on any matter. It seems that the AIADMK has to take some more steps if it is keen on securing the confidence of the minorities during the Lok Sabha election.

Parties' unknown income rise despite electoral bonds

Share of income from unknown sources to national parties was lower at 66% in the two years before the scheme compared to the 72% afterwards

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Rebecca Rose Varghese
Jasmin Nihalani

Before the five judge Constitution Bench sat to hear the pleas challenging the validity of the electoral bonds scheme, Attorney General of India R. Venkataramani submitted in the Supreme Court that the scheme promotes contribution of "clean money" to political parties. This has been the government's long standing claim that electoral bonds make political donations transparent while also protecting the identity of the donor.

However, the Bench raised a possible scenario wherein influential entities could purchase electoral bonds through verified accounts of other persons. Meanwhile, the petitioners have contended that unlimited and anonymous funding to political parties legitimises corruption.

Data published over the years by the Association of Democratic Reforms' (ADR), one of the petitioners, through their annual reports show that the share of "unknown sources of income" has only increased after the introduction of the electoral bonds, the opposite of what the scheme was intended for.

The ADR categorises the income of political parties into two primary categories: known and unknown. Known income is further divided into two subtypes – voluntary contributions over ₹20,000 with donor details provided to the ECI, and other known sources of income such as the sale of movable and immovable assets.

On the other hand, unknown income encompasses voluntary donations under ₹20,000, money obtained through electoral bonds, sales of coupons, and similar means where donor details remain undisclosed to the public.

Table 1 indicates that the share of income from unknown sources for national parties rose from 66% in the FY15-FY17 period to 72% in the FY19-FY22 span. The data for FY18, the year the scheme was introduced, was excluded from the analysis. During this timeframe, the BJP saw an increase in its share of unknown income from 58% to 68%, whereas the Congress' share consistently hovered around 80%. Also, the electoral bonds' share formed 58% of the national parties' total incomes in the FY19-FY22 period. More importantly, the electoral bonds' share formed 81% of the national parties' total income from unknown sources in the period.

Put together, not only did the unknown share of income go up after the introduction of electoral bonds but also the scheme was the major reason behind the rise. "Other known sources of income" was not considered while calculating total income in both periods as it is not dependent on donations.

BJP benefits

It is also pertinent to point out that the BJP has received a lion's share of the income from electoral bonds. Between FY18 and FY22, the party has received ₹5,271 crores through electoral bonds, which is over 57% of income received by all parties through the scheme. Congress is a distant second at 10.4% as shown in **Chart 2**. Except for FY21 – across all other years, BJP has received the most donations through this route.

Table 3 presents the breakdown of the different unknown income sources for national parties in ₹ crore. The data suggest that after the scheme's implementation, the composition of unknown income simply shifted from avenues such as donations under ₹20,000 and coupon sales to predominantly electoral bonds. As can be observed from the table, money coming through the < ₹20,000 voluntary contribution and coupon sales routes dwindled post the introduction of electoral bonds.

Bound to bonds

The data for the tables and chart were sourced from various annual reports published by the Association for Democratic Reforms

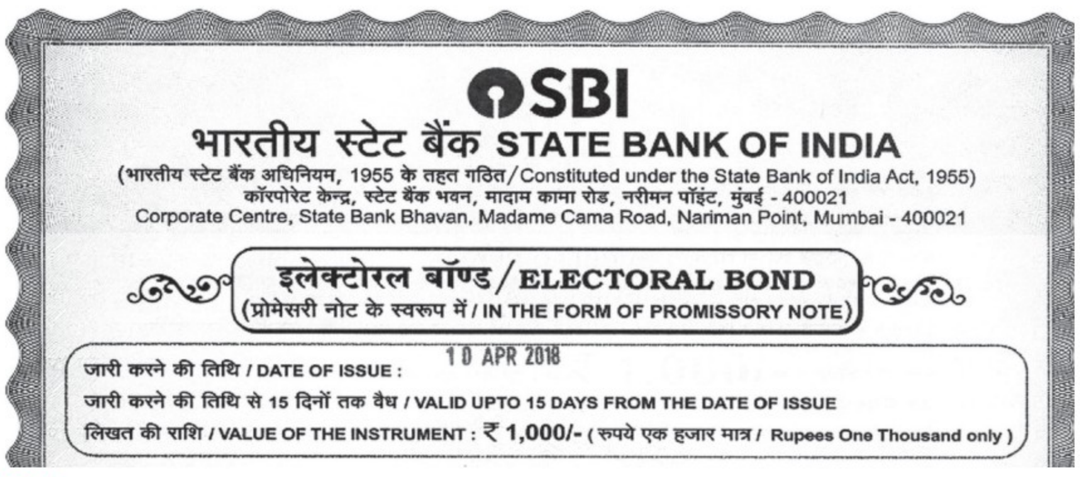

SBI
भारतीय स्टेट बैंक STATE BANK OF INDIA
(भारतीय स्टेट बैंक अधिनियम, 1955 के तहत गठित/Constituted under the State Bank of India Act, 1955)
कॉरपोरेट केन्द्र, स्टेट बैंक भवन, मादाम कामा रोड, नरीमन पॉइंट, मुंबई - 400021
Corporate Centre, State Bank Bhavan, Madame Cama Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021
इलेक्टोरल बॉण्ड/ELECTORAL BOND
(प्रोमेसरी नोट के स्वरूप में/IN THE FORM OF PROMISSORY NOTE)
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Table 1: The chart shows the income of national parties from known and unknown sources. It also shows their share in the total income of parties

Figures in ₹ crore, unless otherwise mentioned	NATIONAL PARTIES		BJP		CONGRESS	
	2014-15 to 2016-17	2018-19 to 2021-22	2014-15 to 2016-17	2018-19 to 2021-22	2014-15 to 2016-17	2018-19 to 2021-22
Total known income from donations for national parties (A)	1,314	**3,340**	1,046	**2,620**	204	**458**
Total unknown income for national parties (B)	2,550	**8,489**	1,431	**5,516**	757	**1,823**
Total income without other known sources (C)	3,864	**11,829**	2,477	**8,136**	961	**2,280**
Total income from electoral bonds (D)	0	**6,841**	0	**5,062**	0	**947**
% of known income (A/C)	34%	**28%**	42%	**32%**	21%	**20%**
% of unknown income (B/C)	66%	**72%**	58%	**68%**	79%	**80%**
Electoral bonds income as a % of total income (D/C)	0%	**58%**	0%	**62%**	0%	**42%**
Electoral bonds income as a % of unknown income (D/B)	0%	**81%**	0%	**92%**	0%	**52%**

Chart 2: The chart shows the party-wise income from electoral bonds in the past five years (in ₹ crore)

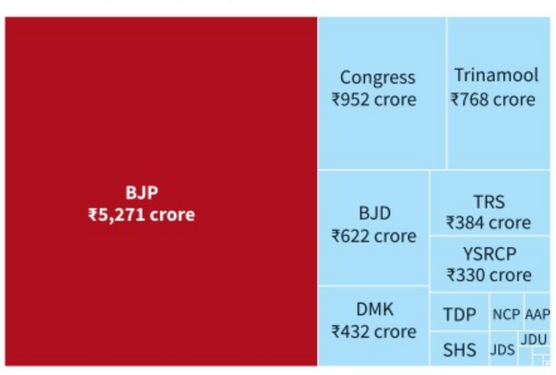

Table 3: The table shows the breakdown of the different unknown income sources for national parties in ₹ crore

Years	Electoral bonds	Voluntary contributions (< ₹ 20,000)	Coupon sales	Other unknown sources of income
2021-22	1,812	199	147	13
2020-21	74	171	170	12
2019-20	2,994	194	177	12
2018-19	1,961	217	329	6
2016-17	0	581	124	6
2015-16	0	514	173	21
2014-15	0	649	350	131

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 2, 1973

Mysore State Renamed Karnataka

Staff Reporter

Bangalore, Nov. 1,

The age-old name, Mysore, slided back into history when the State was rechristened 'Karnataka' to-day. Millions of Kannada-speaking people went gay celebrating the occasion. To the deafening cheers of the packed gathering at the Kanteevara Stadium here, the Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaral Urs, unveiled a granite commemoration tablet inscribing the new name and a map of the State, proclaiming the historic occasion. He also handed to the Governor, Mr. Mohanlal Sukhadia, a silver plaque of the map of Karnataka. As the vast crowd jamming the stands burst into ovation, an Air Force helicopter showered petals and dipped in salute.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary to the Government, Mr. R. J. Rebello, read the Government of India communication on the change in the name of the State.

The new name comes 17 years after the State's reorganisation and after a long and fierce controversy which had highlighted a sharp division in opinion. Successive Governments had buckled under the weight of the controversy and had discreetly desisted from forcing a decision. The present Chief Minister, who was once himself opposed to the change in name, chose a propitious occasion.

The old name is now confined to the lovely city that has been the abode of the long line of Maharajas of the Wadiyar dynasty that ruled Mysore since the downfall of Tippu.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 2, 1923

Indian Tariff Board

Steel Interests on Protection

(Reuter's Special Service)

London, Nov. 1.,

The meeting of the Iron and Steel Merchant Section of the London Chamber of Commerce has adopted a resolution stating that evidence on behalf of the Section and the Indian merchants and indentors interested in exporting steel to India should be tendered at the enquiry of the Indian Tariff Board into the proposed increase in import duty on steel and that no increase in duty is necessary and it would increase the cost of manufactured Iron and Steel goods to the Indian consumer.

From Page One

Oct. GST collections rise to ₹1.72 lakh crore

"The average gross monthly GST collection in the FY 2023-24 now stands at ₹1.66 lakh crore and is 11% more than that in the same period in the previous financial year," the Ministry said.

Deadline effect

Experts believe October's GST kitty, stemming largely from transactions that took place in September, got a fillip from some festive spending as well as compliance deadlines and steps to curb evasion.

"One of the reasons for this rise is the time barring period for financial year 2017-18. Moreover, the spate of notices and anti-evasion drive have led to substantial collections," said Parag Mehta, partner, indirect tax at N.A. Shah Associates.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said the "higher than anticipated" collections would have got a leg-up from quarter-end adjustments as well as the overall momentum in the economy.

KPMG indirect tax head Abhishek Jain linked the significantly increased collection to settlement of disputes for 2017-18 as the normal period of limitation was ending on September 30. "A mid-year collection of such a high number is definitely worth a cheer and the ongoing festivities driven consumption could help this continue," he said.

Selective confidentiality may not suffice: SC

"You [government] presume that they will keep it confidential because they are bankers?" the Chief Justice asked.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union government, said that confidentiality about the identity of the donors and their contributions was key to the electoral bonds scheme. He argued that striking down the scheme would return the country to the earlier regime when black money was cleaned through political donations made in unaccounted cash. Mr. Mehta said that in the pre-electoral bonds regime, contributors fearing reprisals from rival parties had even gone to the extent of converting clean money to black money to facilitate political donations.

Suffers from opacity: CJI

"We are not stopping the legislature from coming out with a transparent scheme which relies less on cash and more on accountable channels... This is a work in progress. However, the problem with this scheme is that it does not give a level-playing field for parties and suffers from opacity, " Chief Jusice Chandrachud observed.

UPSC tightens norms for DGP appointments

The guidelines, which were amended on September 22 and sent to States on September 26, also allow officers with 25 years of experience to be appointed as a DGP, against the earlier requirement of a minimum 30 years of service. The number of shortlisted officers cannot exceed three, but may consist of less than three officers in "exceptional circumstances".

Officers will not be included in the panel unless they themselves are willing, the guidelines added.

States bypassing UPSC process

The amended UPSC guidelines come in the wake of several States, including BJP-ruled States, choosing to appoint acting DGPs instead of regular DGPs, bypassing the requirement to go through the UPSC-selected panel of eligible officers. States such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana have all appointed "in-charge" DGPs, or DGPs with "full additional charge". In fact, Uttar Pradesh has not had a full-time DGP since 2022.

Former Punjab DGP V.K. Bhawra has moved the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) against the appointment of Gaurav Yadav as acting DGP by the Aam Aadmi Party government in the northern State.

Pollution ups diabetes risk in Delhi, Chennai

The paper published in *BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care* also said that "hypertensive participants... were more susceptible to developing type 2 diabetes against long-term exposure to PM 2.5 in Chennai," whereas "younger participants were more susceptible to developing [the disease] in Delhi". There is some epidemiological wisdom as to how ambient PM2.5 concentrations 'outside' the body can affect processes 'inside'. For example, one 2016 study in mice reported that "short-term exposure to PM2.5 induces vascular insulin resistance and inflammation triggered by a mechanism involving pulmonary oxidative stress".

A commentary accompanying the publication of this paper noted that "any other condition involving oxidative stress may increase the susceptibility to harm from PM 2.5".

The other paper, published in the journal *Hypertension*, stated that the "data strongly support a temporal association between high levels of ambient air pollution, higher systolic blood pressure, and incident hypertension".

Rajnath urges Kukis, Meiteis to build trust through dialogue

Defence Minister says the time has come for both warring communities to come together and remove trust deficit; while campaigning in adjoining Mizoram, he says the violence in Manipur pained everyone as Northeast had been peaceful

Rahul Karmakar
AIZAWL

A day after suspected Kuki extremists gunned down a police officer from the Meitei community in Manipur, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said it was high time the two communities sat together to remove their trust deficit through heart-to-heart conversations.

Addressing a BJP election rally at Tipa in Siaha district of southern Mizoram on Wednesday, he said the violence in Manipur "pained all of us" as Northeast India had been peaceful in the past nine years with insurgency having been at an ebb.

Connecting point: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at an election rally in Siaha district of southern Mizoram on Wednesday. ANI

'No party involved'

"I want to tell it honestly that no political party triggered this [Manipur] violence. A situation had developed and both communities felt insecure leading to the violence. I would like to request both communities to sit together and resolve the problem. I want them to remove the trust deficit," Mr. Singh said.

"It is not through violence but heart-to-heart conversations that a solution to the problem can be achieved," he said.

The Manipur crisis has been a major issue in poll-bound Mizoram where the majority Mizo community are empathising with the ethnically related Kukis. Some 12,500 Kuki people from Manipur's Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley and peripheral areas are currently taking shelter in Mizoram.

The Mizos of Mizoram, Kukis of Manipur, and the Chins of Myanmar and Bangladesh belong to the greater Zo community and nurture the dream of a united homeland.

Air strikes in 1960s

Beyond the ethnic issue, Mr. Singh reminded the people of Mizoram of how Aizawl was bombed during Congress rule more than five decades ago.

"When Congress was in power at the Centre, it carried out the first air strike in Mizoram. We will make sure there is never a situation in the Northeast that makes our own government to carry out an air strike," he told the gathering.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) had carried out air strikes in Aizawl in 1966 during the early days of Mizo extremism led by the Mizo National Front (MNF), now a political party and an ambiguous ally of the BJP.

Mr. Singh said road and rail connectivity in the northeast improved significantly since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took charge as the Prime Minister in 2014.

"Road and rail connectivity in the region has changed drastically. We built 4,000 kilometres of roads here after 2014. The government spent ₹58,000 crore for the purpose," the Defence Minister said while criticising the MNF and Congress for failing to develop Mizoram.

"You [people] may be away from Delhi but you are closer to our heart," Mr. Singh said, asserting why the electorate needed to back the BJP in Mizoram.

Elections to the 40-member Mizoram Assembly are scheduled for November 7.

MPs demand parliamentary panel probe on Apple alert

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after Opposition leaders received alerts from Apple about attempted security breach of their devices, Opposition members on Wednesday tried to corner the government by demanding a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Information Technology.

Former Union Minister P. Chidambaram said the finger of suspicion points to a government agency, while Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, in a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, alleged "illegal surveillance by the government using software available only to state actors".

"It is undeniable that hundreds of Opposition leaders got an alert from Apple of a state-sponsored attempt to compromise their phones. Why only Opposition leaders? Who will be interested in compromising the phones of Opposition leaders," asked Mr. Chidambaram, a former Minister who had handled the Home portfolio.

Rajya Sabha privilege panel to review pleas against members

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Privileges Committee of the Rajya Sabha has called for a meeting on Friday to review complaints against House members, including those against suspended AAP MPs Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha and Trinamool Congress member Derek O'Brien.

The meeting comes against the backdrop of the Supreme Court's observations earlier in the week expressing concern about the indefinite suspension of MPs, while hearing a petition filed by Mr. Chadha.

Indefinite suspension

Mr. Singh was suspended in July indefinitely during a protest by the Opposition parties demanding a debate on Manipur.

Mr. Chadha was suspended on August 11, the last day of the Monsoon Session for "gross violation of rule, misconduct, defiant attitude and contemptuous conduct".

A breach of privilege motion was moved against him by four Rajya Sabha members for proposing their names for a Select Committee without their consent in violation of rules.

Three privilege complaints moved by BJP MPs Biplab Kumar Deb, Anil Agarwal and Bhubaneswar Kalita against Mr. O'Brien for "casting unsubstantiated reflections on high authorities" was admitted by the committee in October. Mr. O'Brien was not suspended.

A suspended MP cannot attend the House proceedings or participate in the meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committees.

House panels don't have criminal jurisdiction: MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day before Trinamool Congress member Mahua Moitra appears before the Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha in an alleged cash-for-query case, she has written to the panel that such committees do not have criminal jurisdiction.

Arguing that the nation's founders did not empower the parliamentary committees to decide alleged criminality since they can be "misused" by governments enjoying a brute majority in Parliament, Ms. Moitra said, "I wish to respectfully remind you that parliamentary committees do not have criminal jurisdiction and have no mandate to investigate alleged criminality. This can only be done by law enforcement agencies."

Mahua Moitra

She reiterated her demand to cross-examine businessman Darshan Hiranandani on the allegation made by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey that she received gifts and bribes from him for asking questions.

"In light of the seriousness of the allegations, it is imperative that the alleged 'bribe-giver' Darshan Hiranandani, who has given a *suo motu* affidavit to the committee with scant details and no documentary evidence whatsoever, be called to depose before the committee and provide the said evidence in the form of a documented itemised inventory with amounts, date etc," she said.

The Trinamool member also wished to cross-examine the other complainant, Jai Anant Dehadrai, who had accused her of taking bribes."Since the Ethics Committee deemed it fit to release my summons to the media, I think it is important I too release my letter to the committee before my 'hearing' tomorrow," Ms. Moitra said in a post on X.

Ms. Moitra alleged "double standards" as BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri, summoned in connection with a hate speech, was allowed an extension while the panel did not agree to her request for a meeting after November 5.

BJP IT cell head claims Soros link to hacking row

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya on Wednesday alleged that the warning message received by several Opposition leaders on October 31, in which Apple warned them about "state-sponsored attackers" attempting to target their iPhones, is linked to American billionaire financier George Soros.

Mr. Malviya tweeted a thread on X , in which he said the network 'Access Now', which the Opposition cited to back the hacking claims, was funded by Mr. Soros. Other than Soros' Open Society Foundation, Access Now website lists Omidyar as a prominent donor, along with Ford Foundation, Global Affairs (Government of Canada) and Government of Germany too, he said.

Israeli Embassy screens terror attack video

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Three weeks after coordinated terrorist strikes by the Hamas group on October 7 in Israel, the Israeli Embassy in Delhi held a screening of the videos reclaimed from the site of the attacks as proof of the brutality and mayhem wreaked by Hamas militants on that day.

The screening of the videos, for which about 20 members of the media, including *The Hindu*, were invited was part of similar viewings for media held in Tel Aviv, New York, Brasilia, Beijing and Paris, in order, said officials, to prove the veracity of the Israeli government's description of the violence on October 7.

"Since Day One of the attacks, there were claims that [what we were saying] was fake," said Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon.

Shinde says State government backs quota for Marathas

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday confirmed the State government's support for Maratha reservation and urged pro-quota campaigner Manoj Jarange-Patil to terminate his indefinite fast.

Emphasising the necessity for Mr. Patil's cooperation in securing reservation for the community, Mr. Shinde also underscored the call for restraint among the Maratha populace.

During an all-party meeting on the quota issue spearheaded by the Chief Minister in Mumbai , a collective resolution was passed by all leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Nationalist Congress Party supremo Sharad Pawar, urging 40-year-old Jarange-Patil, the new poster boy of Maratha agitation, to call off his indefinite fast.

'Need for restraint'

"Marathas should observe restraint. We are in favour of the Maratha quota, but the government needs time for legal modalities to implement the reservation," Mr. Shinde said.

The resolution also bore the signatures of prominent leaders, including Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Anil Parab, Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee chief Nana Patole, among others.

Notably, Mr. Shinde did not invite his nemesis and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray for the meeting.

For the past couple of days, the State has witnessed outbreaks of violence, leading to the complete suspension of State-run bus services in five Marathwada districts.

4 militant 'associates' arrested in Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Four "associates" of militants were arrested and houses were attached after the owner "wilfully harboured" militants in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, the police said.

A police spokesperson said two suspects were apprehended in Baramulla. They were identified as Ghulam Hassan Mir and Mukhtar Ahmad Khan. A Chinese pistol, one pistol magazine, and two hand grenades were found with them. Two more men, Altaf Ahmad Rather and Farooq Ahmad Naqeeb, were questioned.

All the four accused were working for terrorist "associate" Mudasir Ahmad Sheikh from Kunzer, who is in jail.

In south Kashmir, the police attached a residential house used by terrorists in Kulgam and another in Pulwama.

SC directs activist, husband to cooperate with Gujarat Police

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed activist Teesta Setalvad and her husband, Javed Anand, to cooperate with the Gujarat Police in probing the case filed against them over alleged misappropriation of funds while refusing to interfere with the anticipatory bail it had granted her.

A three-judge Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul passed the order after Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju submitted that the two were not cooperating in the investigation.

"Chargesheet has not yet been filed. ASG submits that there is an element of lack of cooperation. Be that as it may, the respondents will cooperate with the investigation as and when required," the Bench, including Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and P.K. Mishra, said while disposing of a plea by the Gujarat government challenging the grant of anticipatory bail to Ms. Setalvad.

Teesta Setalvad

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Ms. Setalvad, opposed the submission by the Additional Solicitor-General and said the social activist was cooperating in the matter.

The top court also disposed of a plea by Ms. Setalvad seeking expunction of remarks made by the Gujarat High Court in its February 8, 2019 judgement while granting her anticipatory bail.

ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

IndiGo violated poll code on 2 flights: Congress

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday alleged a Model Code of Conduct violation by the private airline IndiGo, saying that an announcement on two of its flights hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "something routine" and then immediately segued into an appeal to passengers to vote during the upcoming State elections.

In a post on X, he pointed out that there was no mention of the Election Commission in the announcement on vote appeal, which, he said, was a "clear violation of the Model Code of Conduct".

There was no immediate response from the airline to Mr. Ramesh's claims.

The Model Code of Conduct has been in place since the announcement of elections to five States — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram — on October 9. PTI

There was no immediate response from the airline to the Congress charge. FILE PHOTO

PM doesn't want power in hands of poor: Kharge

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not want power to go into the hands of the poor.

Addressing a rally in Chhattisgarh's Sukma, Mr. Kharge said the Congress always stood by tribals in their fight to protect their "*jal-jungle-zameen*" (water, forest and land).

The tribal-dominated Sukma has one Assembly segment Konta, which is among the 20 constituencies where polling will be held in the first phase of elections on November 7.

The Congress chief claimed that Presidents belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities had been elected, but they did not get a chance to lay the foundation stone of any building. "Only two people do such work, Modi and Shah," Mr. Kharge alleged. PTI

> Modi would go to the U.S. and say that he will make an OBC President. You will neither be able to make a President in America nor a CM in Telangana
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Congress leader

Rajasthan polls about future of Cong.: Gehlot

The Assembly election is not just about Rajasthan, it is also about the Congress's future, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said on Wednesday.

"Even if we could not give ticket to those who stood by us, we have told them to help elect candidates who are contesting. The country needs the Congress," he said. PTI

> Congress is leaving no stone unturned in tarnishing the glorious tradition of Rajasthan. It has become synonymous to every problem
>
> **YOGI ADITYANATH**
> Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Personal pitch: In her 'appeal' to people of the State, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi recalls her decades-old association with Mizoram. PTI

No time for experiments, Sonia tells Mizoram voters

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Recalling her decades-old association with Mizoram, Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday released a video in which she made a "personal appeal" to the people to vote for her party in the November 7 Assembly election to ensure peace and progress in the northeastern State.

Ms. Gandhi said the Congress respected the Mizo way of life, while the BJP had put the Mizo Accord in danger. She said the Mizo National Front (MNF) and the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) were the gateway for the BJP into Mizoram, and alleged that its [BJP] politics had divided Manipuri society.

"This is no time for experiments," Ms. Gandhi said, adding that only the Congress could guarantee development and empower the people of Mizoram. "But most of all, we stand for the protection of the Mizo way of life as enshrined in Article 371-G of the Constitution of India, which is the legacy of [former Prime Minister] Rajiv Gandhi," she said. In a reference to the party's election symbol, Ms. Gandhi said the Congress was "the hand of experience and security".

Ms. Gandhi launched an all-out attack on the BJP-RSS and claimed that democracy in Mizoram and the Northeast, like elsewhere, was "under threat". She said the BJP did not care about "diversity, democracy and dialogue" and wanted to impose uniformity across India. Referring to Manipur, she said, "Six months of suffering have gone by, but there is no effort towards peace and reconciliation. The Prime Minister is completely silent and has not seen it fit to visit Manipur for even a few hours."

She recalled her personal bond with the people of Mizoram and mentioned the visits she made with her husband. "I remember with great fondness particularly the visit right after the signing of the historic Mizo Peace Accord on June 30, 1986. The Accord is celebrated every year as Remna Ni," she said.

FOR FULL COVERAGE OF ASSEMBLY POLLS
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https://newsth.live/elections

'Kuki-Zo plight is a humanitarian issue; we won't derive political mileage from it'

ZPM chief says MNF cannot monopolise the issue of Manipur's displaced people, and his party is seeking a singular administration for Zo people across borders; he says a wave of change is blowing across Mizoram as voters are looking beyond MNF and Cong., which have been in power for a long time

INTERVIEW

Lalduhoma

Rahul Karmakar

A former IPS officer who became the first MP to be disqualified under the anti-defection law, Lalduhoma is the chief ministerial face of the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), a five-year-old regional party that is shaping up to be the strongest challenger of the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) in poll-bound Mizoram. He says voters will reject the MNF, which, he says, diluted its identity by aligning with the BJP. Excerpts:

Why will the people reject the ruling MNF?

A wind of change is blowing across Mizoram because the people are fed up with the large-scale corruption and nepotism during the MNF rule. Despite the financial crisis the State is facing, a few [people who are] close to Chief Minister Zoramthanga are getting all the contracts and supplies. Even the MNF party workers are not happy with him. The people have had enough of the MNF and the Congress, which have been in power for a long time.

What makes you confident of a ZPM victory?

People want a change from the same parties with the same old people raising the same old slogans. Of our 40 candidates, 33 are fresh faces with fresh ideas

for a new system of administration, land reforms and economic development. We have promised to help farmers, women, and develop the skills of youth through a hand-holding policy. Mizoram's youth and women have become very politically conscious to weigh the parties.

The people's agenda is the installation of a non-MNF and non-Congress government, for which ZPM is the only alternative. Besides, we are the only party to have made a public commitment not to take bribes.

But hasn't the MNF stolen a march on its rivals on the issue of 'Zo unification'?

The MNF cannot monopolise this issue [primarily involving Manipur's displaced Kuki-Zo people, ethnically related to the majority Mizos of Mizoram] just because they are in the government and have more resources at their disposal. All political parties, NGOs, church, and other organisations are equally concerned about the displaced Kukis and are taking care of them.

This is a humanitarian issue and we have chosen not to derive political mileage out of it. The British divided the people belonging to the Zo family [Mizos, Kukis, and Chins of Myanmar and Bangladesh] into three countries and several States in India.

All of us seek a singular administration, which is permissible under Article 3 of the Constitution.

Do the ZMP and the BJP have a tacit understanding?

It was unbecoming of a leader of the stature of Rahul Gandhi to indicate we have a tacit understanding. [The Congress leader had said that the MNF and the ZPM are entry points for the BJP in Mizoram.]

We saw how the Congress and the BJP came together to form the Chakma Autonomous District Council in our State in 2018.

The ZPM is a genuine regional party with a national outlook. Unlike the MNF, which diluted its identity by being a part of the [BJP-helmed] National Democratic Alliance and the North East Democratic Alliance, we will protect our [identity] because we do not want to be dictated from Delhi.

Moving heaven and earth

Sea of support: Supporters congratulating Congress candidate Yashpal Gahlot on Wednesday after he got ticket from the Bikaner West constituency for the Rajasthan Assembly election. The State will go to the polls on November 25. PTI

An English inflection to heated campaign in the desert State

Mohammed Iqbal
JAIPUR

Hitting out at the BJP for its "double standards", the Congress in Rajasthan on Wednesday highlighted its guarantee of free English-medium education to every student if the party is voted back to power in the November 25 Assembly election. Calling it a "revolutionary step", the party affirmed that it would benefit underprivileged people unable to send their children to English-medium schools.

Senior Congress leader Pawan Khera led the charge against the Opposition BJP, asking why the party leaders were raising an objection to the guarantee when their own children were studying abroad and getting English-medium education.

"The BJP leaders proudly show their children's photos and post them on social media. They feel elated that their sons and daughters are studying in foreign institutions."

Mr. Khera said at a press conference here that the BJP leaders were perhaps troubled by the fact that the children of poor labourers and farmers would very soon start competing with their children while talking in fluent English. This attitude depicted "hollowness and double standards" of the BJP, he said.

He said the BJP leaders were opposed to the idea that children of their domestic helps and party workers would be get English education.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had recently announced free English-medium education, mainly through the Mahatma Gandhi schools, as one of the seven guarantees of the Congress to the people of the State.

Pawan Khera

The flagship Mahatma Gandhi English-medium schools, started by the Congress government in 2019, have become very popular among the public at large, as the applications received for admissions in each academic session were many times more than the seats available.

From a modest beginning of one school each in the then 33 districts, as many as 3,355 schools have been opened across the State.

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat had recently criticised the Congress government's move to promote education in English, while pointing out that the new National Education Policy had laid emphasis on the study in the mother tongue of students up to the primary level.

Mr. Shekhawat, elected to Lok Sabha from Jodhpur, said there was not a single school in the State where the teachers were proficient in English.

Cong. accuses Kailash Vijayvargiya of hiding cases in affidavit

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh Congress said on Wednesday that it will file a complaint with the Election Commission of India (EC) against BJP national general secretary and Indore-1 Assembly seat candidate Kailash Vijayvargiya for "not disclosing" all the cases against him in his election nomination affidavit.

MPCC media in-charge K.K. Mishra, speaking to presspersons in Bhopal, accused the Indore District Magistrate and Returning Officer of working under "political pressure and protecting" Mr. Vijayvargiya by not acting on a complaint filed by the Congress candidate and MLA, Sanjay Shukla.

In his complaint, Mr. Shukla had demanded cancellation of Mr. Vijayvargiya's nomination alleging that his rival BJP candidate had "not disclosed" two cases against him – a gang-rape case pending against him in a court in Alipore of West Bengal and a defamation case from 1999 in Chhattisgarh's Durg.

Mr. Mishra told *The Hindu*, "The Collector did not accept our complaint saying that he was not authorised to conduct probes on any affidavit-related matters."

Party will approach the EC, the State Election Commission and the Madhya Pradesh High Court on the matter

"His decision is not fair as the EC's handbook clearly says that even if a column has been left blank in the nomination form, it will be cancelled. How can he not act in case of a false and misleading affidavit?" he asked. Mr. Mishra said that the Congress will approach the EC, the State Election Commission and the Madhya Pradesh High Court on the matter.

Responding to the Congress allegations, Mr. Vijayvargiya had said on Tuesday that the Congress was indulging in "dirty politics". "Where were they when I contested six Assembly elections and one for Mayor?" he said.

Meanwhile, the nomination forms of two senior BJP leaders and one senior Congress leader, which had been put on hold by their respective District Returning Officers, were cleared on Wednesday.

Forms of former Minister Surendra Patwa, the BJP candidate of Bhojpur Assembly seat, Minister Rahul Singh Lodhi, the BJP leader contesting from Khargapur, and Ajay Singh, former Leader of the Opposition and Congress candidate for the Churhat seat, had been put on hold following objections from their rivals.

Mr. Patwa had been accused of only "disclosing 167 out of 501 criminal cases against him and six out of 27 convictions" by his Congress opponent Rajkumar Patel.

Complaining against Mr. Lodhi, the nephew of former Chief Minister Uma Bharti, the Congress's Chanda Singh Gaur had said that Mr. Lodhi should not be allowed to contest as he is on a conditional bail from the Supreme Court after the Madhya Pradesh High Court had declared his election "null and void" for discrepancies in his 2018 nomination papers.

Mr. Ajay Singh had been accused of giving wrong information about his and his wife's immovable properties.

INBRIEF

72 held in Interpol crackdown on illicit drugs in 89 countries

A major Interpol-coordinated crackdown on illicit medicines across 89 countries, including India, has resulted in the arrest of 72 accused persons worldwide and the seizure of potentially dangerous pharmaceuticals worth over $7 million. It has also led to the the closure of more than 1,300 criminal websites. "The annual campaign targets illicit medicines that pose a significant threat to consumer safety, including counterfeit medicines and medicines diverted from legal and regulated supply chains. They also represent a major source of income for transnational organised crime groups and support other crime activity," it said on Tuesday. The campaign ran from October 3 to 10.

Jet Airways case: ED attaches assets worth ₹538.05 crore

The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached assets worth ₹538.05 crore in connection with the money laundering probe against Jet Airways (India) Limited (JIL). The ED probe is based on a First Information Report registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation following a complaint submitted by Canara Bank.

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Kozhikode and Gwalior enter creative cities list

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kozhikode in Kerala and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh have made it to the prestigious creative cities list of UNESCO for contributions in the fields of literature and music, respectively. The announcement was made by UNESCO on its official website on October 31, which is designated as World Cities Day.

"On World Cities Day, 55 cities join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), following their designation by UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. New cities were acknowledged for their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as part of their development strategies, and displaying innovative practices in human-centred urban planning," the statement said.

" ... Congratulations to the people of Kozhikode and Gwalior on this remarkable achievement!", Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X.

The newly designated Creative Cities are invited to participate in the 2024 UCCN Annual Conference (July 1-5, 2024) in Braga, Portugal, the UNESCO statement said.

Bangladesh nominee defeats Nepal's in race for WHO regional post

Saima Wazed is daughter of Sheikh Hasina; she will take over as Regional Director for South-East Asia from Poonam Khetrapal Singh on February 1

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Tedros Ghebreyesus addressing the 76th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Southeast Asia on Oct. 30. SUHASINI HAIDAR

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter, Saima Wazed, was on Wednesday elected Regional Director of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia region. She defeated Shambu Acharya, a public health veteran from Nepal, in a vote held here during the 76th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Southeast Asia Region.

India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, North Korea, Indonesia, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste – 10 of the 11 member countries – took part in the vote.

Myanmar did not send a delegation to the Delhi meeting.

The nomination will be submitted to the WHO Executive Board during its 154th session on January 22-27 in Geneva, the WHO regional office said in an official communication.

The newly appointed Regional Director will take over from Poonam Khetrapal Singh on February 1.

Ms. Wazed, in a statement, said the WHO Southeast Asia Region was home to over two billion people – more than a quarter of the people of the planet – and that the region represented a diversity with often differences existing within the boundaries of single member states themselves.

"We will work to promote community-based mental healthcare services in member countries, encourage prevention and promotion in mental health while expanding efforts to include mental health in the public health agenda," Ms. Wazed said.

Reacting to the result, Swarup Sarkar, former Director of WHO SEARO, said the election demonstrated the collective resolve of member states to move forward with the vision set out by Ms. Wazed.

"As a former WHO staff, I would look forward to a stronger, responsive, and responsible WHO working at the global, regional and country levels, on the principle of one WHO and more participation of civil society at all stages of WHO work," he said.

Author Nandini Das wins 2023 British Academy Book Prize

Press Trust of India
LONDON

Nandini Das

Indian-born author Nandini Das has been named the winner of the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding, a leading international non-fiction award with a prize money of £25,000, for her book *Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire*. The U.K.-based academic's debut work, described as the "true origin story of Britain and India told through England's first diplomatic mission to the Mughal courts", was revealed as this year's winner at a ceremony at the British Academy in London on Tuesday evening.

As a Professor in the English faculty at the University of Oxford, the 49-year-old author has sought to present a new perspective on the origins of empire through the story of the arrival of the first English ambassador in India, Sir Thomas Roe, in the early 17th century.

"By using contemporary sources by Indian and British political figures, officials and merchants, she has given the story an unparalleled immediacy that brings to life these early encounters and the misunderstandings that sometimes threatened to wreck the whole endeavour," said Professor Charles Tripp, Chair of the prize jury. He described how, through her beautiful writing and exceptional research, the jury was drawn to the contrast between an impoverished, insecure Britain and the flourishing, confident Mughal Empire.

The British Academy Book Prize, formerly known as the Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize, was established in 2013 to reward and celebrate the best works of non-fiction that demonstrate rigour.

Ms. Das will receive £25,000 for winning the prize and each of the shortlisted works, including *Black Ghost of Empire: The Long Death of Slavery and the Failure of Emancipation* by Caribbean-born Kris Manjapra, will receive £1,000 each.

India is proud to be the biggest development partner of Bangladesh: PM

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India is proud to be the "biggest development partner" of Bangladesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion of the joint virtual launch of three projects, including the historic restarting of the rail connection between Bangladesh and Tripura in Northeast India, Mr. Modi appreciated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for boosting the development journey of Bangladesh and reiterated India's commitment to the ideals of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh.

"I especially want to thank Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for making our joint efforts successful.

Narendra Modi

Some weeks ago, you participated in the G-20 summit and I had the opportunity to welcome you at the event. India will continue to support your idea of 'Smart Bangladesh'. I am confident that our joint efforts will create the Golden Bengal (*Sonar* Bangladesh)," Mr. Modi said.

The leaders jointly inaugurated the Akhaura-Agartala rail link that will re-establish the rail connectivity between Bangladesh and Northeast India through Tripura.

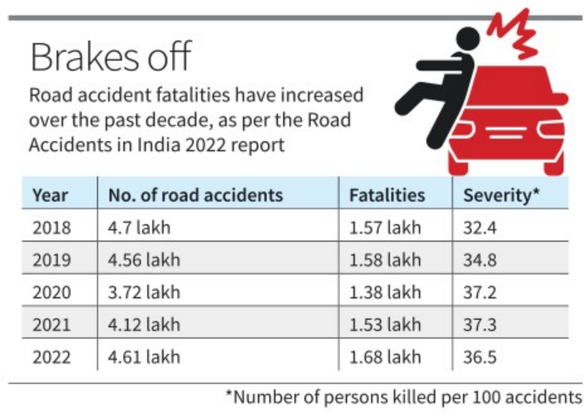
The other projects inaugurated were the Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line and the Unit II of Maitree Super Thermal Power Project.

Ms. Hasina said the projects would help in ushering in an era of prosperity in Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh attaches the highest importance in boosting the relation with India. We have achieved success in bilateral cooperation in various areas in recent years. I am optimistic that many more such examples of success will be set as the reflection of our bilateral cooperation in the coming days," Ms. Hasina said.

53 accidents, 19 deaths per hour in road crashes in 2022, says Ministry

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI



The expansion of the country's road network, including expressways, and an increase in vehicle ownership continue to spur a rise in number of fatalities due to road accidents, with the severity of crashes worsening significantly over the past decade, according to government data.

India witnessed 53 accidents and 19 deaths every hour, or an average of 1,264 accidents and 42 deaths, daily in road crashes last year, according to a Ministry of Road Transport and Highways report released on Wednesday. There were a total 4,61,312 road accidents across the country, which claimed as many as 1,68,491 lives. The number of road accidents in 2022 increased by 11.9% and deaths rose by 9.4%.

The severity of road crashes, measured by the number of people killed per 100 accidents, has increased over the past decade from 28.2 in 2012 to 36.5 in 2022, with a consistent increase every year. In 2020 and 2021, however, when road crashes and deaths registered an absolute decline due to the COVID-19 lockdown, the severity rate had spiked above 37.

The increasing severity "underscores the need for improved trauma care and traffic calming measures aimed at reducing crash impact parameters", notes the government report.

According to an analysis by the Save Life Foundation, with a crash severity of 38.15, India ranks among the 20 worst countries for road crashes. According to World Road Statistics, 2022 published by the International Road Federation, Geneva, which uses data for the year 2020 in terms of the total number of fatalities, India was followed by China (with a crash severity of 25.22) and the U.S. (with a crash severity of 2.01).

National and State highways, which account for only 4.9% of the total road network, witnessed 56.1% of all road crashes and almost 61% of all road crash fatalities in the country.

Of the factors causing road accidents, "speeding" was the most common. It accounted for 72.3% of accidents and 71.2% of deaths. Uttar Pradesh registered the highest share of deaths at 13.4%. This was followed by Tamil Nadu at 10.6% and Maharashtra at 9%.

An age-wise breakdown of road crash data shows that most of those who died were in the 18-45 age bracket. However, 9,528 children were also killed due to road crashes in 2022.

Pilots barred from using mouthwash, tooth gel

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Pilots and crew members cannot use mouthwash, tooth gel or any such substance that has alcoholic content, as that could result in a positive reading of the breath analyser test, the revised norms issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) say.

Various changes have been made to the norms pertaining to the procedure for medical examination of aircraft personnel.

Any crew member who is undergoing such medication shall consult the company doctor before undertaking flying assignment," the DGCA stated.

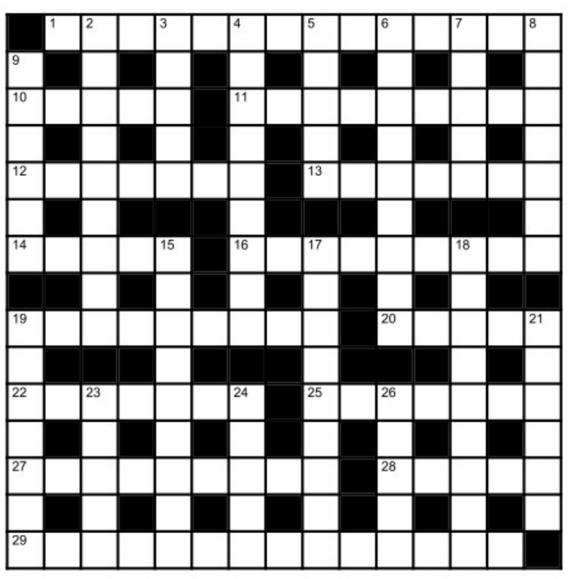
The DGCA says breath analyser equipment with fuel cell technology has been made mandatory.

TH CROSSWORD + 14010

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Fight over family, pressure as monster yet to finish the job (4,2,8)
10 Feeling terrible - for example missing the little devil (5)
11 A round dial, just the opposite (5-4)
12 Warning when it's read (4,3)
13 Plant for the French company in a way (7)
14 Squeeze makes woman nervous, perhaps (5)
16 Prompt in entrance, accepting one grand (9)
19 Extra information on tiny fish inside (9)
20 State gets funds regularly for some food (5)
22 Vilifies a country, starts getting nasty, spiteful (7)
25 Arch slightly around high room (7)
27 Drunk painter, always a bit stretched (9)
28 Ex-PM was too loud, they say (5)
29 Average Joe entertains them, perhaps (3,2,3,6)

Down

2 It's not on, rich are disembarked (9)
3 Opener's name included, supported by a country (5)
4 Close encounter, close it (4,5)
5 Two thirds container - on top port wine (5)
6 Raging storm trapped the crowd (9)
7 Time to follow the muse (5)
8 Woman keeps man at cover (7)
9 Language broadcast where Britain is involved (6)
15 Teach on measures to retain the inner glow (9)
17 Tools to place sailors in the ship (9)
18 Upheaval at Bermuda - give an outline (9)
19 Sign simply on both sides - look for more info within two months (7)
21 Men acquire halo around dawn (6)
23 Dreadfully long for one to gain entry into the computer system (3,2)
24 Apathy for an animal (5)
26 It says wait for a month, what is at the end of four months? (5)

SUDOKU

	2		8				6	
5	3	8						
	4		1		2	3		
			7		5		9	1
		9				5		
4	8		2		1			
		4	5		6		2	
						6	8	4
	9				4		7	

No.SS5966 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	A	N	G	R	I	A		I	G	N	O	B	L	E
E		E		A		B		N		E		R		V
N	A	V	E	S		S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E
E		E		T		T		A		G		D		R
C	A	R	N	A	T	I	O	N		H	E	E	L	S
A		M				N				B				O
	D	I	S	C		E	X	P	L	O	I	T	S	
		N		H		N		A		U		A		
	A	D	R	I	A	T	I	C		R	U	I	N	
G				C				E				W		D
F	L	U	N	K		D	E	M	U	R	R	A	G	E
O		N		A		I		A		E		N		C
R	E	F	U	S	E	N	I	K		B	R	E	V	E
C		E		A		E		E		U		S		I
E	N	D	O	W	E	D		R	E	T	R	E	A	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	6	4	8	7	9	3	2
7	9	8	6	3	2	4	5	1
3	2	4	5	1	9	6	7	8
2	3	5	9	4	1	7	8	6
1	6	7	2	5	8	3	9	4
8	4	9	3	7	6	1	2	5
9	8	3	1	6	5	2	4	7
4	5	1	7	2	3	8	6	9
6	7	2	8	9	4	5	1	3

FAITH

Akin to puppets

The jivatma is subordinate to the Paramatma. We cannot act independently, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. In a puppet show, puppets are manipulated by strings, which are not visible to us. Puppets do not move on their own. There are people behind the screen, who, by clever manipulation of the strings attached to a puppet, can make it move its hands or legs, or make it open its mouth. We are akin to puppets. The Lord's hand may not be visible but it is very much there. We cannot do even the smallest thing, unless He wills it. He who thinks he is independent, and not subject to the Lord's will, is a person whose company we should avoid.

There are some who know they are not independent. But they may not know to whom they are subservient. We are not subservient to devas like Indra. They are not immortal. Not only should we know that Lord Narayana is in control of everything, but we should also know that He is the means to reach His feet. It is wrong to think we attain liberation through our efforts. Anyone who thinks so is not worthy of being befriended. There may be people who have all the requisite knowledge. And yet they may have one flaw. They may think that the service they offer to the Lord is for their pleasure. It is not. Our service is not for our enjoyment and joy, but it is to make Him joyous.

TEHRAN

Iran urges Muslim countries to halt trade with Israel, slams the West

AP

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Muslim countries on Wednesday to halt trade with Israel, including oil exports, in response to its bombardment of Gaza since Hamas attacks. Mr. Khamenei also lambasted Western governments who "stood against Palestine", naming Britain, France and the U.S. AFP

SEOUL

North Korea sends Russia artillery rounds for satellite advice: Seoul

AP

North Korea has provided Russia with over one million artillery rounds to use in its war with Ukraine with Pyongyang appearing to receive advice on satellite technology in return, a South Korean lawmaker said on Wednesday, citing Seoul's spy agency, National Intelligence Service (NIS). AFP

YANGON

Myanmar junta bombs town on China border for second day

AFP

According to a rebel spokesperson, Myanmar's military launched a second day of air strikes on Wednesday, bombing the town of Laiza in Kachin state, a territory controlled by Kachin Independence Army (KIA), an ethnic armed group on the border with China. He said there were no details yet on casualties from the strike. AFP

LA PAZ

Bolivia cuts ties with Israel; Chile recalls envoy, Brazil seeks ceasefire

AFP

Bolivia said on Tuesday it was severing diplomatic ties with Israel over its "disproportionate" attacks in Gaza, as Chile said it was recalling its Ambassador to Israel in protest against Israel's "unacceptable violations of international humanitarian law". Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has urged a ceasefire. AFP

At least four killed in West Bank; general strike called

Agence France-Presse
RAMALLAH

At least four Palestinians were killed during Israeli raids in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian health officials said on Wednesday, as violence there continued in tandem with the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Three people were killed during a raid in the northern city of Jenin, while another was shot dead in Tulkarem, also in the north, the Ramallah-based Health Ministry said. The Israeli military said the incident took place in Jenin refugee camp during a raid targeting an "operative" and militant "infrastructure" in the area.

The latest incident came as Palestinians declared a general strike across the territory, with shops shuttered in Ramallah. Israel has occupied the West Bank since the 1967 war and its forces regularly carry out incursions into Palestinian communities.

Netanyahu promises 'victory' despite 'painful loss' in Gaza

Israel has vowed to crush Hamas's ability to govern Gaza or threaten it, while also saying it does not plan to reoccupy the territory; the Army confirms that 11 soldiers were killed in the enclave

Agence France-Presse
Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed on Wednesday to continue Israel's war on Hamas despite suffering "painful losses" in ground fighting inside the Gaza Strip.

"We have so many important achievements, but also painful losses. We know that every soldier of ours is an entire world," Mr. Netanyahu said in a televised address after the Army confirmed at least 11 soldiers killed in ground fighting on Tuesday.

The leader of Palestinian militant group Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, on Wednesday accused Israel of committing "massacres" in the Gaza war to cover its own "defeats".

Haniyeh, whose Islamist group launched the bloody October 7 attacks on Israel that sparked the Gaza war, accused Israel of "committing barbaric massacres against unarmed civilians". "Its villainy will not save them from resounding defeat," he vowed in a speech broadcast by *Al Jazeera*.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivers his remarks at the start of the Cabinet meeting on Monday. ANI

The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Wednesday that 3,648 children are among 8,796 people killed in Israeli strikes since the war erupted.

The isolated Palestinian enclave, home to 2.3 million people, is in the grip of a severe humanitarian crisis amid a siege imposed by Israel.

Over half the population has fled their homes, and supplies of food, medicine, water and fuel are running low.

A territory-wide blackout has left hospitals reliant on generators that could shut down soon as Israel has barred all fuel imports. Israel has been vague about its operations in Gaza, but residents and spokespersons for militant groups say troops appear to be trying to take control of the two main north-south roads.

Israel has vowed to crush Hamas' ability to govern Gaza or threaten it, while also saying it does not plan to reoccupy the territory, from which it withdrew soldiers and settlers in 2005. But it has said little about who would govern Gaza afterwards.

In congressional testimony on Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken suggested that "at some point, what would make the most sense is for an effective and revitalised Palestinian Authority to have governance and ultimately security responsibility for Gaza".

Biden selects Campbell as Deputy Secretary of State

Sriram Lakshman

U.S. President Joe Biden, on Wednesday, announced that he had nominated his Indo-Pacific policy chief Kurt Campbell for the Deputy Secretary of State position.

The announcement, which was expected, will give Secretary of State Antony Blinken's team a renewed focus on the Indo-Pacific region in the face of competing strategic imperatives, such as the war between Russia and Ukraine and the conflict in West Asia.

'Major moves'

Mr. Campbell is the architect of the Biden administration's Indo-Pacific strategy and a strong proponent of the India-U.S. relationship, which he called "the most important bilateral relationship for the U.S." in this century. Some U.S. foreign policy experts believe that Mr. Campbell's move to the State Department will help maintain momentum for some of Mr. Biden's initiatives in the Indo-Pacific.

Kurt Campbell

"As President Biden moves toward election campaign mode, he is likely to travel less to the Indo-Pacific region or embark on major new initiatives. The Biden administration has already made major moves in Asia," said Lisa Curtis, who leads the Indo-Pacific program at the Centre for a New American Security (CNAS) and was the former senior director for South and Central Asia in the Trump administration's National Security Council.

Ms. Curtis cited initiatives like AUKUS – an Australia, U.K. and U.S. security partnership – Mr. Biden's promotion of the Quad, and the first-ever trilateral summit between the U.S., Japan, and Korea trilateral summit.

'Maintain momentum'

"The focus in Asia next year will be to maintain the momentum of these initiatives and to carry through their implementation, and Kurt can do that from the State Department," Ms. Curtis told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Campbell, a longtime Asia and Pacific expert, has worked at the State Department before, where he was Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 2009-2013.

Mr. Blinken is expected to step down from his role after completing his term in January 2025. It is rare for a United States President to appoint someone as Secretary of State for more than four years.

Politicians, tech leaders gather for U.K.'s AI summit

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Politicians and tech leaders gathered in the U.K. on Wednesday for the first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Safety Summit which sought to build a framework to mitigate the risks of AI while maximising its potential. The two-day event, is being held at Bletchley Park, a country estate where Alan Turing and other scientists broke the Nazis' 'Enigma' code during the Second World War , has resulted in a 'Bletchley Declaration'.

The Declaration "affirms the need to address these risks, as the only way to safely unlock these extraordinary opportunities," U.K. Science, Innovation and Technology Secretary Michelle Donelan said, adding that the declaration emphasised the importance of governments, technology developers and civil society working together to deliver AI safety.

Sustained approach

Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar, representing the Government of India, said the government had maintained that international conversations on AI were "extremely important" and that the government's view was that the framework for regulating technology should be driven by a coalition of countries and the framework should not be "episodic"

Rishi Sunak

but more sustained.

In the last 10-15 years, governments have learned that by allowing innovation to outpace regulation, "we open ourselves to the toxicity and the misinformation and the weaponisation that we see on the internet today, represented by social media", Mr. Chandrasekhar said, as he suggested an alternative course for the future. India currently chairs the Global Partnership on AI, a coalition of 15 governments launched in 2020.

U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak had wanted his country to take the lead on AI Safety globally, but other governments – including the EU, the Biden administration and the Chinese government – are also seeking to shape or lead the process.

"I absolutely welcome and applaud the U.K.'s launch of its AI Safety Institute. And this morning, I'm very pleased to announce that the U.S. will be launching its own AI safety institute," U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo said, adding that the two countries' safety bodies would work together. Ms. Raimondo said the U.S. approach is based on voluntary disclosures by AI companies and a recent mandatory requirement for companies to share safety testing results.

Global framework

China was "willing to enhance dialogue and communication in AI safety with all sides," to build an international governance framework, its science and technology Vice Minister, Wu Zhaohui, told the Bletchley gathering on Wednesday.

Sanctions on the transfer of some AI-related technology – such as those instituted by the Biden administration – have frustrated Beijing, which, in October, had called for a global AI framework at last month's Belt and Road Forum.

The event included a video message from Britain's King Charles III. U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris arrived in London on Tuesday to attend the event. Tech leaders including SpaceX founder Elon Musk were in the audience on Wednesday. Several G-7 heads of government and state, such as France's Emmanuel Macron, Germany's Olaf Scholz and Canada's Justin Trudeau, however, are not expected to attend the meet.

The next AI Safety Summit will be hosted by South Korea in six months and a second one, six months later by France, Ms. Donelan announced.

Taliban call for more time for Afghans to leave Pakistan

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

Afghanistan's Taliban have urged Pakistan to give undocumented Afghans in the country more time to leave as pressure mounts at border posts swarmed by thousands of returnees fleeing the threat of deportation.

The Pakistani government had given 1.7 million Afghans it says are living illegally in the country until November 1 to leave voluntarily or be forcibly removed. More than 1,30,000 people have left Pakistan since the order was given at the start of October, according to Pakistani border officials.

Taliban authorities, in a statement late on Tuesday, "asked Pakistan to not forcibly deport Afghans with little notice but to give them time to prepare".

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
Office of the Chief Engineer — **TENDER NOTICE**
Adv.No.63/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & NIT No.207/SE-I & 125/SE-III/TTD/2023-24, Dt:31/10/2023
Name of works: (1) Widening of existing road in to Four lane with central divider from Cherlopalli Cross to Srinivasa Mangapuram, Tirupati, **Amount Rs.2200 Lakhs,** Time for completion 12 months. **NOTE:** For the above work full details log on to the website https://www.tirumala.org **(2)** Providing Interiors, Acoustic treatment, paintings, Electrical works including Air-conditioning & Yard lighting etc., for S.V.Auditorium in S.V. College, New Delhi., Open Tender type, **Time for completion 12 months. NOTE: For the** above work full details log on to CPPP Website **https://www.eprocure.gov.in.**
Roc.No.PR4/13960/Adv.No.243/PRO/2023, Dated:01-11-2023 — **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 216/2023-24/KWA/ PHC/TVLA (RT-1) JJM- WSS to Paippadu, Thrikkodithanam, Vazhapally and Kurichi panchayaths - Suppling, Laying, Testing, Trial Run and Commissioning of 700mm DI K9/711mm MS raw water pumping main from raw water Pumphouse at Kattodu to WTP at Morkulangara, supply, erection, Testing, Trial run and commissioning of VT pumpsets, Transformer, Pressure Filter including road restoration works.
EMD : Rs. 500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518,
Last Date for submitting Tender : 15-11-2023 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 0469-2600162
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1473-2023-24 — **PH Circle, Pathanamthitta**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 292,293,294,295,296,297/SE/PHC/ TSR/2023-24, JJM - 1.Laying of Pipes for CWGM from 100 MLD Scheme - 2 Providing Distribution Network and FHTC to Chazhur GP – Road restoration charges 3. Construction of 8.3 LL OHSR in Padiyur GP, 4. Renovation of 36 MLD WTP at Peechi, 5. Reappropriation Construction of 5 LL OHSR, 6. Replacing pumping main from Vadanappally Booster Pump House to OHSR at Engandiyur-Supplying & Laying DI K9 400mm Pumping main from Vadanappally sump to Engandiyur OHSR.
EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/-, 2,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 17,700/-,11,800/-,
Last Date for submitting Tender : 25-11-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 0487 – 2423230
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1474-2023-24 — **PH Circle, Thrissur**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
(Mobile No. 96461-10914)
Short Term E-Tender Enq. No. 7481/P-1/EMP-12472 dated: 30.10.23
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2023_POWER_111808_1 for the Procurement of MS and HT Nuts & Bolts under FS Group for the year 2023-24 for whole plant.
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 01.11.23/05:00 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP-130/23 — **76155/12/2353/2023/29428**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Tel.06766-258301(O); email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
e Procurement Notice for Road & Bridge Works under DMF Identification No. Road & Bridge Online NCB No.396
No. 3926 // Date : 31.10.2023
1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Bridge Works under DMF in the District of Keonjhar.**
2. No. of Work : **13 (Thirteen)** Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	Road & Bridge Online NCB No.396	Dt.07.11.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.21.11.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.20.11.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.22.11.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
O-1415: Sd/-Er.S.K.Mishra, **Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.**
OIPR-25177/11/0034/2324

APPOINTMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)
(Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112. Tamil Nadu – India.
Phone: 044 – 27472113, 27472423, 27472046, 27472104 Mobile: 9444314716
Toll Free No: 18004250345 Kiran Mental Health Helpline No: 1800-599-0019
~ Accredited by NAAC~ ~ ISO 9001:2015~
Manpower Engagement Notification No.36, 37, 38, 39, 42/2023
For Contractual engagement of Consultants

Sl.No.	Name of the Position	Posted at	Number
1.	Coordinator (On contract)	NIEPMD(D)	01
2.	Clinical/Rehabilitation Psychologist (Consultant)	NIEPMD(D)	01
3.	Consultant-Admin.	NIEPMD(D)	01
4.	Demonstrator (Consultant)	NIEPMD(D)	01
5.	Store Keeper (Consultant)	NIEPMD(D)	01
6.	Tutor in Occupational Therapy (Consultant)	NIEPMD(D)	01
7.	Sr. Consultant (CSR)	NIEPMD(D)	01

For all other details, terms and conditions, please log on to the website **www.niepmd.tn.nic.in.**
Sd/-
DIRECTOR

GUJARAT URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED
CIN U40109GJ2004SGC045195
ISO 9001 -2015 Certified Company
Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan, Racecourse, Vadodara 390007
PBX: (0265) 2310582-86, www.guvnl.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
GUVNL invites tender for Purchase of Power through Competitive Bidding Process Followed by Reverse E-Auction from 500 MW Grid Connected Hybrid RE Projects with "Greenshoe Option" of additional 500 MW through RfS No. GUVNL / 500 MW / Hybrid RE (Phase I) dated 01.11.2023. For tender documents, please visit the website **www.bharat-electronictender.com** and **www.guvnl.com**. The last date of bid submission is 28-11-2023
Date: 02/11/2023 — **General Manager (RE)**

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553
TENDER ALERT
1)E-TENDER NOTICE NO.CPC- 21/2023-24 : Bids are invited in e-tendering mode only for "Procurement of straight through jointing kit & outdoor type termination kit for XLPE underground cable" at an Estimated cost of Rs. 2,37,88,518.54/-.
Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** and **www.optcl.co.in.**
HIPR-36/2023-24
Sd/-
SGM (C.P.C)
CAD-2654 — OIPR-04011/11/0112/2324
/optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha

INBRIEF

Festive season pushes up petrol, diesel consumption

Petrol and diesel consumption rose in October as festive spending reversed the initial decline in sales, buoying growth, preliminary data of state-owned firms showed on Wednesday. Auto fuel sales declined in the first half of October, but rose sharply in the second compared with the year-earlier period. Petrol sales by three state-owned fuel retailers rose 3% in October to 2.87 million tonnes, while diesel consumption was up 5% at 6.91 million tonnes. PTI

Tata Steel reports Q2 loss on U.K. restructuring charges

Tata Steel reported a loss for the second quarter, hit by charges due to its U.K. operations' restructuring and lower sales and price realisations. Consolidated Q2 net loss was at ₹65.11-billion ($782.24 million), compared with a profit of ₹12.97 billion a year earlier. Total revenue from operations fell 7% to ₹556.82 billion. Tata Steel said it took a charge of ₹63.58 billion that is related to the restructuring of its U.K. business. REUTERS

ATF price cut by 5.8%, LPG for commercial use up by ₹101.5

Jet fuel or ATF price on Wednesday was cut by almost 6% after four rounds of monthly increases since July, while commercial cooking gas (LPG) rates were raised by a steep ₹101.5 per 19-kg cylinder in line with international benchmarks. However, the price of domestic LPG remained unchanged. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was cut by ₹6,854.25, or 5.79%, in the national capital to ₹1,11,344.92 per kl from ₹1,18,199.17, according to a price notification of state-owned retailers. PTI

PMI points to manufacturing growth easing to 8-month low

Momentum subsided on several fronts last month as demand for certain products faded, with consumer goods being the worst hit; the new orders index slipped to a one-year low in October

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Manufacturing sector growth eased in October to the slowest pace since February as new orders dipped to a one-year low, with the seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slipping to 55.5 from September's 57.6.

Growth subsided on several fronts, with demand for consumer goods being the worst hit. Job creation was the weakest since April, with less than 4% of firms hiring new staff.

Business confidence slid to a five-month low, as concerns surrounding the path for inflation and demand dampened spirits compared with the first half. International orders slowed to a four-month low. Input cost pressures intensified for producers who reported rising prices for aluminium, chemicals, paper, rubber and steel.

"New orders index slipped to a one-year low, as some firms raised concerns about" current demand, said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Firms signalled that rising inflation expectations would dent production in the coming 12 months.

Manufacturing slows

Manufacturing sector growth eased in October to the slowest pace since February as new orders dried up to a one-year low

- S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) eased to 55.5 from September's 57.6
- Job creation was the weakest since April, with less than 4% of firms surveyed hiring new staff
- Business confidence slid to a five-month low over concerns surrounding inflation

More than 97% of ₹2,000 notes have returned: RBI

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

With the circulation of ₹2,000 notes declining to ₹0.10 lakh crore at the close of business on October 31, more than 97% of the notes have been returned, the central bank informed on Wednesday.

The window for deposit and/or exchange of the ₹2,000 bank notes continues to be available at the 19 Issue Offices of RBI.

The ₹2,000 notes continue to be legal tender, the RBI reiterated.

Passenger vehicle dispatches soared to record high in Oct.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Passenger vehicle wholesales in India rose to a record high in October as companies pushed dispatches to dealers to cater to the enhanced demand in the festive season.

The overall passenger vehicle wholesales in October rose to 3,91,472 units, up 16% from 3,36,679 units in the same month last year.

In October, Maruti Suzuki India reported its best-ever domestic monthly dispatches at 1,77,266 units, up 21% from 1,47,072 units in the year-earlier period. Its total domestic passenger vehicle sales rose to 1,68,047 units last month from 1,40,337 units in October 2022.

Rival Hyundai Motor Company said its domestic sales increased by 15% to 55,128 units last month, from 48,001 units in the same month a year earlier.

Mahindra & Mahindra said its utility vehicle dispatches rose by 36% year-on-year to 43,708 units in October compared with 32,226 units in the year-earlier period.

Tata Motors said its passenger vehicle wholesales, including electric vehicles, in the domestic market were at 48,337 units compared to 45,217 units in the year-ago month, up 7%.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) said its dispatches increased by 66% year-on-year to 21,879 units in October.

ITR filings climb 11.7% to a record at 7.65 crore

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Income Tax Return (ITR) filings for this assessment year crossed a record 7.65 crore by October 31, about 11.7% higher than the 6.85 crore returns filed by November 7 last year, the Income Tax Department said on Wednesday.

The total ITRs filed so far in this financial year, for all assessment years, also hit an all-time high of 7.85 crore, compared with a total of 7.78 crore ITRs filed in all of 2022-23.

October 31 was the deadline for taxpayers whose accounts are required to be audited and who do not have any international or specified domestic transactions. Some crucial statutory forms also have to be filed by the date, and more than 1.44 crore such forms had been filed by Tuesday, the department said.

By July 31, which was the filing deadline for most taxpayers, total ITRs filed this year had touched a high of 6.77 crore, reflecting a 16.1% increase, with 53.67 lakh taxpayers filing returns for the first time.

The I-T department said most of the returns filed had been verified and processed already.

"Out of the 7.65 crore ITRs filed for Assessment Year 2023-24, more than 7.51 crore ITRs have already been verified," the department said.

"Out of the 7.51 crore verified ITRs, 7.19 crore [or almost 96%] have already been processed" till October 31, it added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	63,591	-0.44
US Dollar	83.28	-0.04
Gold	61,700	-0.56
Brent oil	85.93	-1.99

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2217.30	-77.35
Adani Ports	769.10	-15.65
Apollo Hosp	4796.55	-23.35
Asian Paints	2934.55	-61.15
Axis Bank	971.80	-10.05
Bajaj Auto	5344.35	30.30
Bajaj Finserv	1572.85	3.30
Bajaj Finance	7471.90	-20.75
Bharti Airtel	913.45	-0.95
BPCL	356.90	7.65
Britannia Ind	4397.30	-29.20
Cipla	1201.25	1.25
Coal India	306.65	-7.60
Divis Lab	3346.05	-42.30
Dr Reddys Lab	5346.45	-21.10
Eicher Motors	3282.25	-13.30
Grasim Ind	1868.55	-18.15
HCL Tech	1258.95	-17.05
HDFC Bank	1474.50	-2.00
HDFC Life	620.05	1.70
Hero MotoCorp	3092.45	4.10
Hindalco	462.70	3.20
Hind Unilever	2472.25	-11.75
ICICI Bank	914.05	-1.30
IndusInd Bank	1432.60	-8.70
Infosys	1354.15	-14.25
ITC	428.10	-0.30
JSW Steel	724.45	-11.90
Kotak Bank	1724.40	-15.00
L&T	2895.30	-33.75
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4998.70	-61.70
M&M	1454.60	-4.00
Maruti Suzuki	10227.75	-164.55
NestleIndia	23872.70	-362.10
NTPC	232.60	-3.20
ONGC	186.70	0.55
PowerGrid Corp	200.95	-1.20
Reliance Ind	2297.40	9.50
SBI Life	1336.05	-31.80
State Bank	566.40	0.85
Sun Pharma	1116.20	27.60
TataConsumerProduct	903.15	2.65
Tata Motors	627.70	-0.95
Tata Steel	116.60	-2.15
TCS	3330.65	-38.10
Tech Mahindra	1125.10	-8.05
Titan	3173.40	-16.25
UltraTech Cement	8381.45	-40.80
UPL	532.05	-8.45
Wipro	380.95	-0.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 01

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.09	83.41
Euro	87.64	87.97
British Pound	100.84	101.23
Japanese Yen (100)	54.95	55.17
Chinese Yuan	11.35	11.40
Swiss Franc	91.39	91.75
Singapore Dollar	60.62	60.87
Canadian Dollar	59.83	60.06
Malaysian Ringitt	17.41	17.49
Australian Dollar	52.66	52.87

Source:Indian Bank

Ambuja Cements misses Q2 revenue view

Reuters
BENGALURU

Ambuja Cements missed quarterly revenue estimates after higher prices damped sales volumes.

Revenue from operations grew 8% to ₹39.7 billion for the three months ended September 30, but fell short of analysts' estimate of ₹41.43 billion, according to LSEG data.

Despite infrastructure and real-estate demand, higher cement prices and a delayed pickup in monsoon rainfall during the quarter weakened volume growth, analysts noted.

Profit after tax jumped fivefold to ₹6.44 billion, beating analysts' estimates on an almost 32% slide in power and fuel costs.

India Cements Q2 net loss narrows to ₹81 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

N. Srinivasan

The India Cements Ltd.'s (ICL) standalone net loss for the September quarter narrowed to ₹81 crore from ₹138 crore even as the selling price of cement continues to be under pressure due to supply overhang and competition in the market place.

"Today, after several quarters, we have turned EBITDA positive of ₹14 crore against negative EBITDA of ₹87 crore despite the restricted operations caused by the stressed working capital position," said Vice Chairman and MD N. Srinivasan.

There was an immediate need for a working capital of ₹250 crore, he said, adding that ICL started to recover the advances given to group companies to increase capacity utilisation and augment cash flow.

Though ICL had entered into binding agreement for sale of 73.75 acres of land in A.P. for ₹42.81 crore, the profit on sale had not been recognised in Q2 primarily due to the condition that the land had to be converted into industrial land from the current classification. Revenue from operations declined to ₹1,222 crore from ₹1,255 crore.

NMDC's iron ore output, sales rose 11% in October

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

State-owned miner NMDC reported a 11% year-on-year increase in iron-ore production and sales to 3.92 million tonne (3.53 MT) and 3.44 MT (3.09 MT) respectively for October.

Production up to October this fiscal was 19% more at 23.48 MT, while cumulative sales increased 23% to 23.99 MT. This was the best-ever October and up-to October (nine months) performance, India's largest iron-ore producer said in a statement.

"These numbers are the wind beneath our wings in our flight towards the target of 50 MT production," said Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (additional charge).

Wheels India Q2 net hit by one-off charges

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Wheels India Ltd. (WIL) standalone second-quarter net profit contracted 64% year-on-year to ₹5.24 crore due to "one-off pre-delivery inspection charges and a few other charges," MD Srivats Ram said during a media briefing.

"Otherwise, net profit would have been ₹22 crore against ₹14.53 crore," Mr. Ram stressed.

Revenue from operations increased 7% to ₹1,184 crore, while for the first half, it improved by 8% to ₹2,313 crore.

According to Mr. Ram, WIL's revenue growth was driven by a 25% increase in exports. A slowdown in Europe was offset by growth in Asian markets, WIL's managing director added.

Domestic outlook

On the domestic front, WIL expects growth in the commercial vehicle and air suspension markets for the rest of FY24.

WIL also announced the setting up of two wholly owned subsidiaries in Europe and the U.S. next month to develop the business and for better sales coordination. WIL also plans to increase renewable energy use for its operations from 26% to 75% by 2026, Mr. Ram added.

WeWork shares tank on 'bankruptcy' report

Reuters

WeWork shares tanked almost 50% to a record low on Wednesday following reports the flexible-workspace provider was planning to file for bankruptcy as early as next week.

The New York-based firm, struggling with a heavy debt load and hefty losses for a few years now, was once privately valued at $47 billion and now has a market capitalisation of just about $121 million.

The potential bankruptcy filing would follow a series of setbacks for the SoftBank-backed firm since its IPO plans imploded in 2019 on skepticism over its business model of taking long-term leases and renting them for short term. WeWork, which went public in 2021 at a much reduced valuation, remains a black spot for SoftBank that sunk billions in efforts to prop up the start-up that has never turned a profit.

WeWork decided to withhold interest payment due on November 1 on senior notes due 2025, even as it had the cash, it said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients Mr. **Ronac Bharat Shah & Mr. Aashil Bharat Shah,** Children of late. Mr. Bharat Premchand Shah, are the absolute owners and in possession of lands bearing Sy.Nos.158, 159, 198, 199, 206, 207, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 218, 219, 220 & 221 of Vaddarahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. The above properties are not available for sale, Joint Development or any kind of encumbrance and Agreements.
My clients are not liable for any loss or injury caused/suffered by any person/s, entity due any kind of claims/representations made under our names.
Wherefore, the public are hereby requested to not deal or engage in any kind of transaction with any person/s, entities claiming any right, title and interest in the said properties. Please contact the undersigned for further information.

(NANDEESH C B) Advocate
No. 20 Reservoir Street, 2nd Block, K.P. West, Seshadripuam, Bangalore - 560020
Mob - 9980840202
Email : cb.nandeesh@rediffmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mrs.Ashwini Pavan W/o.pavan K.V.** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Smt. VINUTHA.S W/o.Sri.S.Ashok Kumar and Smt. RANI.D W/o.Sri.Dorai Swamy;** any person/s, Company, Bank, Financial Institutions objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **8th November 2023** with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.8,** Katha No.27/8, Property No.572, BBMP Katha Sl.No.219, Situated at : **KALKERE Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore,** BBMP Ward No.26, Bangalore, Measuring East to West: [32+30]/2 Feet & North to South : 45 Feet, in all totally Measuring 1395 Sq feet, and bounded on:
East by : Site No.9; West by : Site No.7; North by : Site No. 14; South by : Road;

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that My client **Smt Santa W/o Nemichand,** residing at B No 12/3, 3rd floor, Vidya Sagar Saral Palya Bangalore 560 077. Is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Smt Kempamma W/o Sri Narayanappa,** residing at Saraipalya, (Vidhyasagara) Thanisandra Village A.C. Post Bangalore 560045. If Anyone Person/s, firm / company / institution / organization or establishment, is/are having any right, title, interest, claim, share, or objections in respect of schedule property hereby required / request to intimate in writing to the undersigned advocate or may contact the undersigned advocate with documentary proof, within **7 days** hereof, and Any claim made after the stipulated period, will not be considered, it will be presumed that there is/are no claims and will not be valid, same shall be null & void, such person/s shall be considered as waived and not binding on my Client and my Client will proceed with completion of sale transaction by way of Execution Sale Deed in respect of the Schedule Property in/on the name of my Client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing khatha **No. 3122/66/5,** situated at **Saraipalya (Vidhyasagara), Thanisandra Village, K R Puram, Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore,** measuring East to West: 60. Feet and North to South: 20 Feet, totally measuring **1200 Sq. Ft.** and bounded on the:
East by : Road, West by: Property belongs to Jai Lakshmamma, North by: Property belongs to Krishnappa, South by: 5 feet Passage and property belongs to Doonesh.

B. Shubhakar BA LL.B.,
Advocate
#601, Old Police Station Road, Next to Srinivasa poly clinic, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore 560036
Mobile: + 91 9448950488,
email : shubhakar14@gmail.com

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ritu Dayalu D/O, Nancy Patrick Maxwell R/o 246, Jal Vayu Towers, Ngef Layout, Temple Street, Sadanand Nagar, Bengaluru- 560038 have changed my name to Rita Dayalu.

I, SHUBHANGI P Mohadikar, W/o Shriram Janardhan Paunikar, R/a Flat No.218, C Block, SLV Sapphire, Venkateshwara Layout, Abbigere Main Road, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore North Karnataka-560090 have changed my name from Shubhangi Shriram Paunikar to Shubhangi P Mohadikar vide affidavit dt: 30/10/2023 sworn before Notary Onkarappa.N.R, B'luru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vikram S S/o, Somanatha Iyer C S R/o #180, 7th Main, 4th Cross, Gokul 1st Stage, 2nd Phase, Bangalore- 560 054 have changed my name to Vikram Somanatha Iyer for all purposes.

I HUSSAIN Bi Mother of No Tj–7195y Rank Sub Name Abbidali Saheb Nadaf Presently Residing at Maradur Halagi, Haveri, Karnataka–581213 That Have Declared to Changed My Name From Hussain Bi To Husenbi Peersab Nadaf Vide Affidavit Dated 27/10/2023 Before Me Hussain Bi

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING

Thankyou for favours received - RVS

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Website: www.travancoresugars.com

TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited (https://etenders.kerala.gov.in) for the Implementing QR Code Devices at TSCL (Tender ID 2023_TSC_616589_1). The last date of Bid Submission End date is 15.11.2023 at 6.00 PM. Contact Office / Website.
Place : Thiruvalla (Sd)
Date : 27.10.2023 GM

TENDERS

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING
Head Office Complex, Vattiyoorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram, Ph: 2365678, 2365415
CAPT/1385/2023-O2(OUTSOURCE)

e-TENDER NOTICE

2 Cover e-tenders (Tender No. 133/23-24) are invited from the leading printing presses to undertake printing and supply of **Multicolour Brochure**, through online vide e-Tender id. **2023_CAPT_617513_1** Due date & Time of tender / bid submission (online) **06.11.2023** up to **10.00 AM**. For detailed information log on the website: **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.captkerala.com**
01.11.2023 Sd/- MD, C-apt

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LEGAL NOTICE

In The Court of The 1st Additional Junior Civil Judge: Tirupati
I.A.No.363/2020 in O.S.No.406/2020
S.Renuka and another...Petitioners
V/s
N.Dora Babu and others
...Respondents
Notice to the Respodents No.6
R6) S.Lakshminarasimha Sarma S/o S.Subbaramaiah, D.No: 1003, BSK, 1st Street, 9th main, 2nd Cross, Srinivasa Nagar, South Bangalore, Karnataka.
Please take notice that the above suit is filed for the grant permanent injunction. Along with the suit they filed the above petition for temporary injunction and it is stands posted to 20.11.2023 for your appearance and fails to appear on the said date at 10.30 am., the matter will be decided ex-parte.
M.NAGARAJU
Advocate,
D.No.1-4-599/1, Balaji Colony, Tirupati. Andhra Pradesh

IN THE COURT OF THE XI ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE; PILER.
I.A.No.131/2018
O.S.No.22/2013
A.P. Noorulla and two others
... Petitioners/Plaintiffs
Vs
S.Shafi Ahmad and others
... Respondents/Defendants
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT No.9:
9. S.Bushra Tasneem, D/o. S.Rasheed Ahmed, residents of D.No.10/61, Meenakshi Kail Street, Third cross Shivaji Nagar, Bangalore-51.
Where as the above named petitioner(s) filed the above petition against you and the same is stands posted for your appearance on **10-11-2023.** Hence please take notice and appear before the above Hon'ble Court on **10-11-2023 at 10.30 AM** either in person or through a pleader, otherwise the matter will be decided ex-parte.
//BY ORDER OF THE COURT//
Sri P.SHOWKATHALI, M.A., B.L, Advocate for the Petitioners/ Plaintiffs Piler-517214, Annamayya District, A.P.,
Cell No: 9441451350.

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MAKING PROGRESS

News we are getting from NCA about Hardik is all positive: Rohit

PTI

Hardik Pandya will miss Thursday's World Cup match against Sri Lanka. Skipper Rohit Sharma said that the Indian all-rounder is making steady progress from his ankle injury: "Whatever news we are getting from the NCA is all positive. Hardik is doing well but it is an injury which needs to be monitored on a daily basis," Rohit said.

SAD LOSS

For me, Uncle Percy was the number one fan: Rohit

GETTY IMAGES

Sri Lankan fan Percy Abeysekara, who passed away recently, evoked warm tributes from Rohit Sharma. "I first saw Uncle Percy when I toured Sri Lanka as an Under-19 player but back then I didn't know much. When I toured with the Indian team later, I understood who he was. For me, he was the number one fan. It is a sad loss."

FREAK ACCIDENT

Maxwell falls off golf cart, to miss England clash

R.V. MOORTHY

Australia batter Glenn Maxwell has been ruled out of the World Cup clash against England on November 4 after he fell off a golf cart, resulting in a concussion and facial bruising. Cricket.com.au reported that Maxwell was riding on the back of a golf cart after a round on Monday when he fell off.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A personal chef: Stoinis' mantra to stay in top shape

K. MURALI KUMAR

A fitness freak who is very particular about his food intake, Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis is travelling across India with a personal chef to ensure that he is getting a low carb diet during the ODI World Cup. "I've always been quite strict with my food and all that stuff in my preparation," Stoinis told *cricket.com.au's Unplayable Podcast.*

India looks to seal its seemingly pre-ordained semifinal berth

Sri Lanka has to be at its best even to put up a fight against the impregnable Men in Blue whose strong batting phalanx and potent bowling attack have proved to be a tough barricade to breach; Rohit's men have won all six games in the tournament so far

ODI WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MUMBAI

If by a miracle, all vehicles on the roads around this mega city's *maidans* stop in unison, drivers avoid pressing those blaring horns, and vendors stay mum, the resultant silence will be punctured by the sound of a million red cherries thudding into eager bats.

Cricket is all pervading in Mumbai and at the Wankhede Stadium with its various hat-tips to great cricketers, the latest being a Sachin Tendulkar statue, India will take on Sri Lanka in a World Cup game on Thursday. The Men in Blue are on a roll.

Spring in the step: Kishan and Kuldeep go through their paces during a training session.
EMMANUAL YOGINI

Looming presence

Most opposition teams have been accounted for and after the duel involving Sri Lanka, there will be the looming presence of South Africa at Kolkata's Eden Gardens this Sunday. Much later the Netherlands will await India at Bengaluru and by then hopefully India's semifinal rival would become evident.

Cut to the here and now, Sri Lanka, the 1996 champion, and at one stage perennial finalists, has lost its way. The rebuilding phase after the retirements of various stalwarts has been an extended journey. In the present campaign, Kusal Mendis and his men notched victories over England and the Netherlands. However, losses against South Africa, Pakistan, Australia and Afghanistan have left the neighbours from across the Palk Strait rowing a leaky boat on rough seas.

In the previous two World Cup games at this venue, the South Africans reigned supreme, batting first and winning by handsome margins against England and Bangladesh. Sri Lanka needs its runs and for now only Sadeera Samarawickrama and Pathum Nissanka have offered sustenance. Among the bowlers, left-arm seamer Dilshan Madushanka has been among the wickets while his support cast has turned mute.

Against an upbeat host, Sri Lanka has to be at its best, and perhaps that would be the ideal tribute the men from the Emerald Isle could offer to their greatest fan, the departed Uncle Percy, formally known as Percy Abeysekera. India, meanwhile, would press forward and try and seal its seemingly pre-ordained semifinal berth. Two cups have been won, but it is also equally remarkable that the legacy involves seven semifinal appearances spread across 1983, 1987, 1996, 2003, 2011, 2015 and 2019.

A batting phalanx with skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli showing the way and an equally potent attack headlined by Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, have collectively proved to be a tough barricade that rivals just cannot scale across. The last time India and Sri Lanka clashed in a World Cup game in Mumbai, it was the summer of 2011 and the final bequeathed a wondrous title to M.S. Dhoni's men. This is a memory to cherish while a fresh path is being carved.

The teams (from):

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), K.L. Rahul (wk), Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur and Kuldeep Yadav.

Sri Lanka: Kusal Mendis (Capt. & wk), Dimuth Karunaratne, Angelo Mathews, Charith Asalanka, Pathum Nissanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Dushan Hemantha, Dunith Wellalage, Chamika Karunaratne, Kusal Perera, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Maheesh Theekshana, Kasun Rajitha, Dilshan Madushanka and Dushmantha Chameera.

Umpires: Chris Brown and Paul Reiffel; **Third umpire:** Rodney Tucker; **Match referee:** Jeff Crowe.

Match starts at 2 p.m.

Today's match

India vs. Sri Lanka
Mumbai, **2 p.m.**

EYE ON THE SKY
High: 35°C
Low: 24°C
Mainly clear
SOURCE: IMD

H2H IN ODIs

	M	India	Sri Lanka	T	NR
Overall	167	98	57	1	11
In India	54	39	12	0	3
In World Cup	9	4	4	0	1

1979: Sri Lanka **won by 47 runs** (group stage), Manchester
1992: **No Result** (round-robin), Mackay
1996: Sri Lanka **won by six wickets** (group stage), Delhi
1996: Sri Lanka **won by default** (semifinal), Kolkata
1999: India **won by 157 runs** (group stage), Taunton
2003: India **won by 183 runs** (super six), Johannesburg
2007: Sri Lanka **won by 69 runs** (group stage), Port of Spain
2011: India **won by six wickets** (final), Mumbai
2019: India **won by seven wickets** (round-robin), Leeds

We aren't thinking about staying unbeaten: Rohit

Turf call: Rohit and Dravid have a close at the surface ahead of the Sri Lanka clash. EMMANUAL YOGINI

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MUMBAI

India's scorching run in the World Cup has heightened expectations about a triumphant coronation when the tournament concludes on Nov. 19. However, skipper Rohit Sharma stressed about the need to just look at the immediate match.

"You don't think that far. You deal with the match on hand, try and play good cricket and then move onto the next match. We aren't thinking about staying unbeaten and all. Every day is a fresh day," Rohit told the media here on Wednesday.

Asked about the way he has gone about his batting, Rohit explained: "As an opener I step in at zero for zero and then I try to set up the tempo, gauge the pitch, identify how many runs need to be scored or how much would be ideal on a pitch. Last game against England, we lost some early wickets and then I had to bat according to that situation. All I can say is that I am enjoying my batting."

Queried about rotation of bowlers and fielding an extra spinner, the captain replied: "The bowlers are in good rhythm and the feedback is that they want to keep playing matches. As for fielding three spinners, if the conditions demand, then I have no hesitation in playing two seamers and three spinners. It all depends on the pitch and conditions."

And about Thursday's game against Sri Lanka at the Wankhede Stadium, Rohit said: "We have seen various results and we cannot call them upsets as all teams compete to win. We can't say this game (against Sri Lanka) will be a cakewalk. We will focus on our plans and try to win the game. As for the 2011 World Cup final, only a few players from that match are still playing. We deal with this game as a fresh challenge."

Silverwood hopes Asia Cup defeat will motivate Sri Lankans

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

The last time India and Sri Lanka faced each other in the final of the Asia Cup, a month-and-a-half ago, the latter suffered a humiliating 10-wicket defeat.

As the two sides square off again on Thursday in a World Cup group league fixture at the Wankhede Stadium, Sri Lanka head coach Chris Silverwood believes that the Asia Cup final debacle would motivate his team to put up a fight.

Need of the hour: Rajitha and his bowling mates will have to rise to the occasion against India if Sri Lanka wants to make a match of it.
EMMANUAL YOGINI

Show plenty of spirit

"I would like to think that the defeat in the Asia Cup will add some motivation to the boys to come out and obviously fight tomorrow, show plenty of spirit," Silverwood said.

"They (India) are a very good side, we know that, we've seen them play some superb cricket this tournament so far. But I think it's a good opportunity for our boys to show what they're made of as well..."

While India sits atop the points table, Sri Lanka is placed seventh, and its hopes of making it to the semifinals appears slim with a defeat against Afghanistan in its last outing. "All of us were very disappointed the other night after that result. That's not to take anything away from Afghanistan. I thought they played superb cricket on the night and showed that they are a progressing team and they're very capable of beating people," Silverwood said.

"We had a very good chat in the dressing room afterwards, addressed some of the issues that we felt we had and then we've come here and we're trying to put that right in practice now. So, we'll be ready for tomorrow..."

Back in 2011, Sri Lanka featured in the World Cup final against India, with the latter clinching a six-wicket victory. But Silverwood admitted that his boys are excited to play at the iconic venue.

"The boys are very aware of the history. Obviously, players do talk about the history of their team as well and the results that they've had," he said.

India must keep the winning tempo going against struggling Sri Lanka

Sunil Gavaskar

The India run continued with a splendid win over the defending champions England at Lucknow. They have Sri Lanka next and while the Lankans looked a bit listless against Afghanistan, they also have a fine win against England under their belt.

In that game against England, the Sri Lankan bowlers bowled superbly to restrict England. If anything, the bowling had looked Sri Lanka's weak point and on good batting pitches they haven't been able to defend even 300-plus totals. Their Man-of-the-Match performer Lahiru Kumara has returned home with an injury and his replacement Chameera, although sharp in pace, hardly troubled the Afghan batters. Kusal Mendis has played a couple of blazing innings in the tournament, but against Afghanistan his batting was not the same.

Sri Lanka will depend on him and the talented trio of Nissanka, Samarawickrama and Dhananjaya de Silva if they are to put up a challenging total against India. That won't be easy as Bumrah, Shami with the new ball and then Kuldeep and Jadeja in the middle overs have hardly given anything away. Shami coming back so strongly has been a huge plus and his uncanny habit of picking wickets in every spell that he bowls doesn't allow the opposition batters much leeway. Kuldeep's delivery to get Buttler out is being talked about as the ball of the tournament so far and that will do his confidence a world of good.

Rohit Sharma's innings against England was a captain's innings worth more than a hundred as he tailored his approach according to the needs of the situation. Rahul once again showed how important it is to have an opener batting at No. 5 because he could deal with the new ball and stabilise the innings with skipper Rohit. India's fielding also has been showing steady improvement.

India mustn't loosen up and keep the winning tempo going as it sends a message to the opposition that they are determined to win the trophy at home.

(Professional Management Group)

De Kock and van der Dussen's tons knock the stuffing out of the Kiwis

Skipper Latham's decision to insert South Africa misfires as the Proteas amass 357; New Zealand comes a cropper in the steep chase to go down by 190 runs; Maharaj hastens the end with a four-wicket haul to complement Jansen's triple strike

ODI WORLD CUP

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

On a leather hunt: Van der Dussen and de Kock batted New Zealand out of the contest with a 200-run partnership. M. VEDHAN

Bat first, bat big and bat the opposition out of the game. That's been South Africa's success mantra in the World Cup so far.

When New Zealand inserted South Africa in to bat after winning the toss, the latter was served an opportunity to repeat it at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium on Wednesday.

And it did not disappoint. After Quinton de Kock's fourth hundred of the tournament and his scintillating partnership with Rassie van der Dussen, the other centurion, helped South Africa pile up a gargantuan 357 for four, it was always going to be an uphill task for New Zealand.

The batting line-up that fell one six short of chasing down a target of 389 against Australia in its last outing wilted under the Proteas firepower.

As a result, well before Glenn Phillips' counter-attack was over to signal the end of the Kiwi innings for 167, more than half of the 31,940 spectators who had flocked to the stadium had started their journey back to the city.

While Keshav Maharaj took four wickets after the pace pack had taken the fizz out of the chase, the game was set up by de Kock and van der Dussen's second 200-run partnership of the tournament.

Captain Temba Bavuma was uncharacteristically aggressive – his six off Matt Henry over extra-cover being the standout stroke of the day.

But once he miscued a drive off Trent Boult in the ninth over, van der Dussen joined de Kock at the crease.

For the next 144 minutes, the de Kock-van der Dussen show thrilled the fans. The pair took its time to get going. At 94 for one in 20 overs, left-arm spinner Rachin Ravindra was welcomed with a huge six in his first over as the next 10-over passage saw the duo add 61 runs.

When de Kock cut a wider slower delivery straight to point off Southee off the last ball of the 40th over, the launchpad had been set for South Africa to finish the innings with a flurry.

David Miller, promoted ahead of Heinrich Klaasen to target the left-arm spinners, did not disappoint as South Africa plundered 119 runs in the final 10 overs. The onslaught clearly put the target out of New Zealand's reach.

Once the pacers had reduced the Kiwis to 56 for three in the 11th over, the game was all but sealed before Maharaj finished it off in a hurry.

Next assignment

NEW ZEALAND: November 4 vs. **Pakistan,** *Bengaluru, 10.30 a.m.*

SOUTH AFRICA: November 5 vs. **India,** *Kolkata, 2 p.m.*

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA
Quinton de Kock c Phillips b Southee 114 *(116b, 10x4, 3x6)*, Temba Bavuma c Mitchell b Boult 24 *(28b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Rassie van der Dussen b Southee 133 *(118b, 9x4, 5x6)*, David Miller c Mitchell b Neesham 53 *(30b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Heinrich Klaasen (not out) 15 *(7b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Aiden Markram (not out) 6 *(1b, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-4, w-8): 12; Total (for four wkts. in 50 overs): 357.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-38 (Bavuma, 8.3 overs), 2-238 (de Kock, 39.6), 3-316 (van der Dussen, 47.1), 4-351 (Miller, 49.5).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING
Boult 10-1-49-1, Henry 5.3-0-31-0, Southee 10-0-77-2, Santner 10-0-58-0, Phillips 7-0-52-0, Ravindra 2-0-17-0, Neesham 5.3-0-69-1.

NEW ZEALAND
Devon Conway c Markram b Jansen 2 *(6b)*, Will Young c de Kock b Coetzee 33 *(37b, 5x4)*, Rachin Ravindra c Coetzee b Jansen 9 *(16b, 1x4)*, Daryl Mitchell c Miller b Maharaj 24 *(30b, 4x4)*, Tom Latham c Maharaj b Rabada 4 *(15b)*, Glenn Phillips c Rabada b Coetzee 60 *(50b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Mitchell Santner b Maharaj 7 *(18b, 1x4)*, Tim Southee lbw b Jansen 7 *(11b, 1x4)*, James Neesham b Maharaj 0 *(8b)*, Trent Boult c Miller b Maharaj 9 *(14b, 1x4)*, Matt Henry (not out) 0 *(9b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-6, nb-1): 12; Total (in 35.3 overs): 167.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-8 (Conway, 2.6), 2-45 (Ravindra, 8.6), 3-56 (Young, 10.3), 4-67 (Latham, 15.2), 5-90 (Mitchell, 18.3), 6-100 (Santner, 22.4), 7-109 (Southee, 25.1), 8-110 (Neesham, 26.4), 9-133 (Boult, 30.2).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Jansen 8-1-31-3, Ngidi 6-1-28-0, Rabada 6-2-16-1, Coetzee 6.3-0-41-2, Maharaj 9-0-46-4.

Toss: New Zealand.
PoM: Rassie van der Dussen.
South Africa won by 190 runs.

We chose to do what we thought was best on this pitch: Phillips

Royal show: Maharaj finished with a four-for after the batters had piloted Bavuma's men to a commanding total. M. VEDHAN

Pranay Rajiv
PUNE

New Zealand's decision to field first against an in-form South African batting side didn't turn out to be a wise one as it conceded 357 runs in the first innings and crashed to a massive 190-run defeat at the MCA Stadium on Wednesday.

New Zealand all-rounder Glenn Phillips, though, defended his side's decision to chase against the Proteas.

Strong batting

"We chose to do what we thought was best on this pitch with the information that was given. Obviously, South Africa is incredibly strong batting first, but we've got a good bowling line-up and there was no reason that we couldn't have restricted them.

"Playing on at the end, I definitely thought it got better as well. So, I think had things gone slightly differently, we could definitely have come a lot closer than we did," said Phillips, who top-scored for his team.

New Zealand's bowling effort was not helped by an injury to Matt Henry, who could not complete his 10 overs for the day.

The Kiwis were already without an injured Lockie Ferguson.

Phillips downplayed the impact of injuries on his side's three-game losing streak.

"Every team is combating injuries at the moment. But well, we'll see what the scans show and we'll take it from there."

South Africa's huge win was built around a 200-run second-wicket partnership between Rassie van der Dussen and Quinton de Kock, with both batters hammering centuries.

Van der Dussen was all praise for the wicket-keeper batter, who is now the leading run-scorer of this World Cup.

"He's one of my favourite guys to bat with. He really guided me through my innings. At times, I was under pressure and I was asking him about a few options. It was just great to bat with him," said van der Dussen.

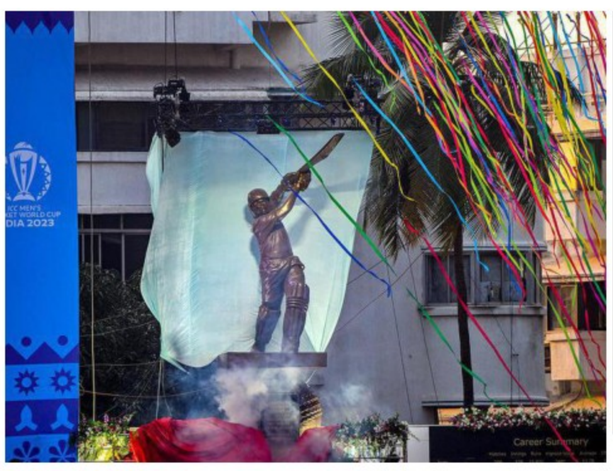
Ready for India

Van der Dussen also added that South Africa is looking forward to facing India.

"India has been playing really well. They've got all bases covered. We'll go into that game knowing that if we do the things well that we want to do, we'll be in a really strong position."

Tendulkar's life-size statue unveiled at the Wankhede

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI



Sculpted for posterity: The statue of Sachin Tendulkar was unveiled, in presence of dignitaries, at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Chants of 'Sachin, Sachin' returned to the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday evening as a life-size statue of Sachin Tendulkar was unveiled at his 'home ground'.

A splash of colourful confetti and the rhythmic beats of the 'dhol' gave a festive fervour to the ceremony as a rather emotional Tendulkar, who was joined by wife Anjali and daughter Sara, waved at the crowd for all their love and support.

Positioned adjacent to the stand named after him, the statue, crafted by artist Pramod Kamble, who hails from Ahmednagar, captures Tendulkar in the act of playing a stroke.

In the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, former BCCI and MCA head Sharad Pawar, the BCCI office-bearers – vice-president Rajeev Shukla, secretary Jay Shah, and treasurer Ashish Shelar – a nostalgic Tendulkar thanked the Mumbai Cricket Association for the honour.

"My first visit to the Wankhede was in 1983 when I was 10. The West Indies had come to India after the World Cup and the excitement was there. My brother's friends from Bandra, all in their 30s or 40s, decided to watch the match and I was also asked to tag along.

"I enjoyed the game from the North Stand and while coming back home, I heard someone say, '*achha manage diya, na*?' (We managed it well, no?)," Tendulkar reminisced. Then I realised that there were 25 of us, and we had only 24 tickets for the match, and they sneaked me in. After that I got a chance to play at the Wankhede Stadium."

As the Master Blaster shared some more anecdotes, he also revealed that he decided against taking over as the India captain in 2007 as his body was giving him 'a lot of trouble'.

"I remember having a meeting with Mr. Pawar (the then BCCI president) in England and I told him that as a player, my leadership role will always be there. Only the captain tag won't be there. But at this stage, I don't think I can last the whole day as both my ankles were giving trouble.

"That's the reason, I suggested that (MS) Dhoni be made the captain and the rest is history."

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
South Africa	7	6	1	12	2.290
India	6	6	0	12	1.405
Australia	6	4	2	8	0.970
New Zealand	7	4	3	8	0.484
Pakistan	7	3	4	6	-0.024
Afghanistan	6	3	3	6	-0.718
Sri Lanka	6	2	4	4	-0.275
Netherlands	6	2	4	4	-1.277
Bangladesh (E)	7	1	6	2	-1.446
England	6	1	5	2	-1.652

E: Eliminated

Ankit stuns a top-class field to win the 10,000m

Stan Rayan
PANAJI

Ankit Kumar had never won a major medal in national athletics. And the men's 10,000m in the 37th National Games at the Bambolim Stadium on Wednesday had some top names, including Asian Games bronze medallist Gulveer Singh and Asian championship bronze winner Abhishek Pal.

But Ankit did not let that trouble him. He ran a cool race and somewhere around the 10th lap broke into a strong lead. He won by nearly a 200m margin. Abhishek and Gulveer took silver and bronze.

Kerala's N.V. Sheena completed a hat-trick of National Games triumphs in women's triple jump. Tanya Chaudhary set the day's lone record, in women's hammer throw.

Madhya Pradesh's 18-year-old Dev Meena won the men's pole vault with 5.16m late on Tuesday and broke his own junior National record (old record 5.00m).

He also qualified for next year's under-20 World championships (entry standard 5.10m) in Peru.

In swimming, Sajan Prakash bettered his one-year-old record in 200m butterfly.

Sheena and Ankit. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: Athletics: Men: 10,000m: Ankit Kumar (Utr) 29:51.41s; **shot put:** Samardeep Singh Gill (MP) 18.99m; **4x400m:** Services (Shubham Deshmuk, K. Sathish, Himanshu, Angrej Singh) 3:07.79s; **pole vault:** Dev Meena (MP) 5.16m.

Women: 5000m: Seema (HP) 15:44.05s; **triple jump:** N.V. Sheena (Ker) 13.49m; **pole vault:** Baranica Elangovan (TN) 3.90m); **hammer throw:** Tanya Chaudhary (UP) 62.47m (MR, Old: 61.56, Hardeep Kaur, 2001); **4x400m relay:** 1. Andhra Pradesh (Kunja Rajitha, M. Shreesha, Chelemi Pratyusha, D. Jyothikasri) 3:37.94m.

Swimming: Men: 200m butterfly: Sajan Prakash (Ker) 1:59.38s (MR, Old: 1:59.56, own, 2022); **50m breaststroke:** S.P. Likith (Ser) 28.71s; **4x200m freeestyle relay:** Karnataka 7:37.47s (MR, Old: 7:41.10s, own, 2022).

Women: 200m butterfly: Astha Choudhury (Asm) 2:19.29s; **50m breaststroke:** Chahat Arora (Pun) 34.09s. **4X200m freeestyle relay:** Karnataka 8:49.74s (MR, Old: 8:51.59s, own, 2022).

Beach football: Final: Kerala 7 (T.K.B. Muhseer 2, 28 & 29; Muhammed Unais 18, K.K. Umarul Mukthar 20, Y. Rohith 25, Ali Akbar 36) bt Goa 5 (Pedro Gonsalves 9-p, 11 & 13; Richard Cardoz 22 & 30).

Consistent India looking to finish league-stage on a high

It would be ideal for the host to plug the scoring gaps in the match against Korea before entering the business end of the competition

ACT HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
RANCHI

With the top-four teams confirmed on expected lines, the final league matches at the women's Jharkhand Asian Champions Trophy on Thursday will be more about deciding on the semifinal line-up and working out the niggles one last time before the knockout stages.

A superior goal difference means India is assured of finishing on top of the table even with a draw or a loss against Korea in its final league outing.

However, the host would be looking at nothing less than a win while keeping its undefeated streak intact.

The previous two games were both close affairs, and despite coming out on the winning side, India would be looking to clean up its scoring prowess.

Domination: A superior goal difference means India is assured of finishing on top of the table even with a draw or a loss against Korea. PTI

- India has only converted four of the 21 penalty corners it has earned and only one of those has been direct
- Korea has scored four in 18, and the new, bouncy turf has come in for some criticism
- Malaysia will face Thailand in the other game on Thursday

Not perfect

Against Japan on Tuesday, India dominated play and possession but could not find the finishing touch despite having half a dozen chances.

Coach Janneke Schopman has been vocal about her annoyance with the team deserving but not scoring more goals.

Korea has been inconsistent so far with an upset win against China offset by a draw against Malaysia - the only draw so far in the competition - and its defence has faltered when put under pressure.

The side has also scored the least of the top-four teams - five goals in four games - and it would be ideal for India to plug the scoring gaps before entering the business end of the competition.

Penalty corners have been another concern, although it has been so for every team here.

India has only converted four of the 21 it has earned and only one of those has been direct.

Korea isn't much better, with four in 18, and the new, bouncy turf has come in for some criticism.

Sweating it out

On Wednesday, the Indian goalkeepers sweated on saving PCs and shootouts, with coach Schopman putting both Savita Punia and Bichu Devi through the grind in anticipation of tied scores in the knockout phase.

The scenario

With the 2-4 positions still open, a win for Korea - currently thirrd - will help push it up the standings, depending on other results, even as defending champion Japan will be hoping to win against China to remain in second spot. Malaysia will take on Thailand in the other game on Thursday.

Thursday's matches:

Malaysia vs. Thailand (4 p.m.).
China vs. Japan (6.15 p.m.).
India vs. Korea (8.30 p.m.).

Pegula upsets an out-of-sorts Sabalenka to claim a straight-sets victory

WTA FINALS

Agence France-Presse
CANCUN

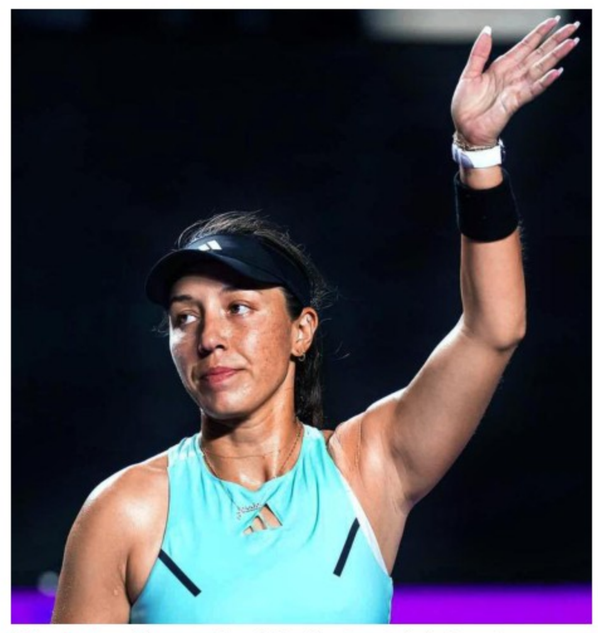
Jessica Pegula upset Aryna Sabalenka in straight sets at the WTA Finals in Cancun on Tuesday, punishing an error-strewn performance by the World No.1 to all but guarantee a semifinal berth.

World No. 5 Pegula, who had beaten Sabalenka only once before in five previous meetings, dominated her out-of-sorts Belarusian opponent from the outset to claim a 6-4, 6-3 victory.

Sabalenka, who is one of several players who have complained about the condition of the court at this week's tournament, looked uncomfortable throughout against Pegula, finishing with 33 unforced errors and five double faults.

Earlier, fourth seed Elena Rybakina shook off a late comeback attempt from Maria Sakkari to get her first win in the competition. Rybakina routed her Greek opponent 6-0 in the first set, but Sakkari fought back, taking the subsequent sets into tiebreakers despite Rybakina's commanding start in the third set.

The results: 5-Pegula (USA) bt 1-Sabalenka (Blr) 6-4, 6-3; 4-Rybakina (Kaz) bt 8-Sakkari (Gre) 6-0, 6-7(4), 7-6(2). **Doubles:** 6-Zvonareva (Rus) & Siegemund (Ger) bt 4-Krejcikova & Siniakova (Cze) 6-3, 6-7(6), [10-5].



Bringing her 'A' game: Pegula had beaten Sabalenka only once before in five previous meetings. INSTAGRAM@WTA

VFI Assistant Secretary Vasavan awaits salary arrears from govt. after retirement

VOLLEYBALL

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

The Assistant Secretary of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI), Vasavan Kunnappata had served the national federation for 36 years, from 1986. He was widely known for his efficient work. Yet, he retired a bitter man in May 2022. For, he was not paid salary by the Sports Ministry for 23 months, from July 2020.

In all the National sports federations, the appointment of the Assistant Secretary is ratified by the Sports Ministry which pays the salary. The Assistant Secretary plays a key role in office administration, and many other work.

Vasavan.

"After serving an organisation for 36 years, going home empty handed is an injustice to an employee. Kindly intervene and do the needful to release the outstanding salary.

There are no other facilities like Provident Fund, gratuity or pension for Assistant Secretaries, serving the National Sports Federations. Since the employing authority is Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, it is the responsibility of the Ministry to release the salary of its employee", wrote Vasavan to SAI Director General, with copies to the Ministry and VFI.

Till date there has been no positive response from the government. He is back home in Kannur, Kerala, unable to bear the cost of living in the Capital.

"The salary stopped abruptly from July 2020. There was no notice or any intimation then, till now", Vasavan pointed out.

In October 2022, the SAI dismissed the case, with a letter, stating that he did not report to SAI and that it had not utilised his services for the entire period. To complicate matters, the VFI was helpless, as its account had been frozen as per court order, as the federation had not paid ₹6.5 crore to the concerned party following a breach of contract in the conduct of the volleyball league, PVL.

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INBRIEF

Inquest reveals Charlton died after an accidental fall

Manchester United and England legend Bobby Charlton died after an accidental fall at a care home, an inquest was told on Wednesday. Charlton, one of English football's all-time greats, passed away aged 86 in Macclesfield General Hospital on October 21. The Cheshire Coroner's Court inquest into the 1966 World Cup winner's death revealed he lost his balance when he stood up from a chair, striking a window sill and "possibly a radiator."

Bagan bests Jamshedpur to keep its winning run going

Defending champion and table-topper Mohun Bagan Super Giant registered its four straight win with a 3-2 verdict over host Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League at Jamshedpur on Wednesday. Bagan now has 12 points from four games, while Jamshedpur is on five points after six matches.

The result: Jamshedpur 2 (Sanan 6, Ambri 86-pen) lost to Mohun Bagan 3 (Sadiku 29, Colaco 48, Nassiri 80).

AIFF awarded AFC president's recognition bronze medal

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) was honoured with the AFC President's recognition bronze medal for its efforts in grassroots development of the sport in the country. It was AIFF's second bronze medal in the category after having earned the same recognition way back in 2014.

SMAT QUARTERFINALS

At Mohali: Punjab vs. Uttar Pradesh; Mumbai vs. Baroda; Delhi vs. Vidarbha; Kerala vs. Assam (D/N).

Aishwary claims rifle 3P gold

Mixed trap teams also strike it rich as India finishes second on the medals table

ASIAN SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the rifle 3-position event with a 0.8 point margin over Tian Jiaming of China in the 15th Asian shooting championship in Changwon, Korea, on Wednesday.

There was no question of an Olympic quota for India in the event, as Swapnil Kusale and Akhil Sheoran had already won the maximum possible quotas in the event for the country in the World Championships.

The Indian team was pushed to the silver by China which was dominant with a world record of 1777 points, 13 better than India.

India claimed both the mixed trap gold medals. Manisha Keer and Prithviraj Tondaiman won by beating Korea 141-136, while the junior mixed trap gold was claimed by Aadya Tripathi and Shardul Vihan with a total of 131. The other Indian team of Bhavya Tripathi and Bakhtyaruddin Malek shot 130, but was ineligible to be among the medals.

China topped the medals table with 33 gold, 21 silver and 22 bronze. India was second with 21 gold, 21 silver and 13 bronze ahead of host Korea (16, 22, 19).

Aishwary with his reward.

The results:
50m rifle 3-position: Men: 1. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar 463.5 (591), 2.Tian Jiaming (Chn) 462.7 (593), 3. Du Linshu (Chn) 450.3 (597); 9. Akhil Sheoran 587; 11. Swapnil Kusale 586; RPO: Goldi Gurjar 585; Niraj Kumar 582. **Team:** 1. China 1777 (WR); 2. India 1764; 3. Japan 1760. **Trap: Mixed team:** 1. India (Manissha Keer, Prithviraj Tondaiman) 141, 2. Korea 136, 3. China 134 and Kuwait 133; 12. India-2 (Preeti Rajak, Kynan Chenai) 125. **Junior mixed team:** 1. India-2 (Aadya Tripathi, Shardul Vihan) 131, 2. Kazakhstan 125(4), 3. China 125(3) and Chinese Taipei 117; 5. India (Bhavya Tripathi, Bakhtyaruddin Malek) 130. **25m centre fire pistol:** 1. Song Jong-Ho (Kor) 587, 2. Phan Xuan Chuyan (Vie) 582, 3. Pradeep Singh Shekhawat 582; 5. Prabhjot Singh 580; 9. Yogesh Singh 575; 14. Rajendra Bagul 568. **Team:** 1. Korea 1743, 2. India 1737, 3. Vietnam 1730.

Sindhu reveals she was forced to retire mid-match because of niggle on left knee

BADMINTON

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Former World champion and double Olympics medallist P.V. Sindhu took to her social networking platform *X* to announce that she was forced to retire mid-match in the French Open because of a niggle on the left knee.

"Determined to come back firing on all cylinders. Not the ideal update, but going to make this count Let's do this @DrZeinia, @OGQ_India and my whole team," the World No. 10 shuttler informed.

"After returning from France and undergoing a scan, we've found a niggle in my left knee. In hindsight, conceding the match was the best decision," the 28-year-old shuttler posted in the written statement.

"Doctors have advised a few weeks' rest before I begin training again. The break is also an opportunity to focus on the upcoming Olympics," Sindhu said.

Before conceding the match against Thailand's Supanida Katethong, Sindhu had clinched the opening game 21-18. However, at 1-1 in the second game, the two-time Olympic medallist stretched herself far too much, resulting in the injury to her knee.

Focus: Sindhu is determined to come back firing on all cylinders. PTI

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Dhivakar is HAL's hero

Dhivakar scored a brace to take HAL FC past ASC & Centre FC 2-1 in the BDFA Super Division football league here on Wednesday.

The results: HAL FC 2 (A. Dhivakar 86, 90+4) bt ASC & Centre FC 1 (Tongbram Krishna 27); FC Agniputhra 2 (Lalnunzama 39, Prashanth Chettri 90+4) bt MEG & Centre FC 1 (Thonglal Joute 78).

WC matches box office ticket sales today

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) will open box office ticket sales for the New Zealand v Pakistan (November 4) and New Zealand v Sri Lanka (Nov 9) matches at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium from Thursday. The sales will commence at gate numbers 2 and 4 (Cubbon Road), and gate numbers 16 and 18 (Queens Road). Ticket sales will be conducted on all days except match days.

Haveri bests Kaveri

Haveri SC defeated Kaveri SC 5-2 in the KSHA-BHA 'C' division hockey league.

The results: Haveri SC bt Kaveri SC 5-2; Southern Alpha Sports Academy drew with D.A. Association 3-3.

KV under-17 kabaddi tournament from today

The 52nd Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) National Sports Meet kabaddi under-17 tournament will commence at Kendriya Vidyalaya (DRDO) here on Thursday. Dharmendra Patle, deputy commissioner of KVS Regional Office (Bengaluru) will inaugurate the tournament. The tournament will be contested by 24 teams from KVS regions from all over the country. Around 350 players will be seen in action.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.
Hockey: Women's Asian Champions Trophy, India vs Korea, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m.

Sriram and Begemann combine in last eight

Sports Bureau

Sriram Balaji and Andre Begemann beat third seeds Petr Nouza and Philipp Oswald 7-6(6), 6-3 in the prequarterfinals of the €73,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Ismaning, Germany.

Other results:

$25,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia:
Singles (first round): Johanna Silva (Ger) bt Teja Tirunelveli 7-6(4), 6-1.
$15,000 ITF women, Sharm ElSheikh, Egypt:
Singles (first round): Darja Suvirdjonkova (Srb) bt Humera Baharmus 3-6, 7-6(6), 6-3.